

## Kozhrev pledges to help Israel-PLO talks

GAZA (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozhrev said on Saturday he would convey to Israeli leaders a request from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to speed up the implementation of their peace accord. Standing next to Mr. Arafat after a meeting in Gaza, Mr. Kozhrev said: "We discussed the difficulties and how to promote the peace process and we will convey the message of peace and the implementation of the agreements to the Israeli counterparts when we meet them in Israel." Mr. Kozhrev was to meet his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, on Saturday, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday. He promised the Palestinians material assistance, which a Palestinian official said comprised 45 vehicles and several jeeps for the Palestinian police. Mr. Arafat complained that Israel's policy of sealing off the Gaza Strip after attacks by suicide bombers was inflicting heavy economic losses for the Palestinians. He urged Mr. Kozhrev to press Israel to implement the next stage of the 1993 PLO-Israeli agreement — Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian parts of the West Bank, followed by Palestinian elections.



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## Regent urges Cabinet to prepare team for negotiations with EU

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday urged the Council of Ministers to continue its efforts to prepare an efficient Jordanian team to negotiate with the European Union (EU) over the Jordan-EU "partnership agreement" as of next July.

Chairing a regular Cabinet session after holding a meeting at the Prime Ministry with Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawahdeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Karaki and Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin, Prince Hassan voiced his pride in Jordan's key role in international humanitarian initiatives, including the proposal to have a new humanitarian order, and pride in the participation of the Jordanian Armed Forces in peace keeping operations in various parts of the world.

The Regent stressed the importance of discussing economic and cooperation issues, saying they serve human causes in the Middle East, particularly in the fields of human rights, democracy, political pluralism and socio-economic development.

Prince Hassan briefed the ministers on the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's visits to France and the U.S. and the Crown Prince's visits to Germany and Austria.

He said 1995 should be the year for building self-confidence, noting that Jordan should shoulder its national and regional responsibilities and demonstrate its ability to take initiatives in order to maintain its participation in positive changes in political, economic and social fields.

The Crown Prince urged "everyone in Jordan to work in a team spirit to stand up to challenges of the stage in a responsible manner," stressing the need for having continuous and precise preparations for the Amman economic summit which will be held in October.

This summit, he told the Cabinet, will lend an opportunity to the countries of the region to interact together and with other regions of the world.

Earlier in the session, Mr. Rawahdeh outlined issues top-listed on the Cabinet's agenda and reviewed the council's plans and programs.

Following the meeting, the Regent stressed the importance of King Hussein's visits to the U.S., Canada and France.

Speaking to reporters, the Crown Prince said these visits are part of Jordanian efforts to build bridges of confidence and cooperation with the industrialized countries and the U.S.

The Prince called on the Arab Nation to heal its rifts and unify efforts to enhance inter-Arab relations so that the Arab Nation will be able to reap the fruits of peace.

The Regent also Saturday attended the graduation ceremony of several Royal Air Force pilots. The squadron commander delivered an address in which he thanked Prince Hassan and outlined the stages of training the lots received at the course.

At the end of the ceremony, which was held at Basman Palace, Prince Hassan distributed diplomas to the graduating officers and awards those who excelled. The ceremony was attended by Chief of Staff of the Air Force and senior officers.

On Saturday the Regent sent a cable to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on Iran's national day. Prince Hassan said Mr. Rafsanjani good health and happiness and the Iranian people further progress and prosperity.

## Israel threatens 'action' if Syria does not curb attacks from S. Lebanon

Damascus says resistance will continue

### Hizbullah warns of more rocket attacks

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Saturday warned Syria that Israel would take action if guerrilla attacks from Lebanon continued.

Lebanon's Hizbullah reiterated vows to rain down Katyusha rockets on northern Israel if the Jewish state shelled civilian areas in South Lebanon.

Syria expressed support for Lebanese resistance against Israel and said the Lebanese had the right to liberate their lands.

"The Lebanese resistance will go on as long as the Israeli occupation continues in the south of Lebanon because resistance is the natural and real response to this occupation," the official daily Tishreen said.

The paper did not refer specifically to the Israeli warning to Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, to curb fighters of Hizbullah who shelled northern Israel on Friday.

The shelling followed the assassination of a Hizbullah leader, Rudo Yassin, who died when his car was rocked by an Israeli helicopter in South Lebanon.

"The Lebanese people have full right to resort to any method they find suitable to liberate their lands from the occupiers and the agents," Tishreen said.

It also urged the international community to prevent Israeli action.

Touring northern Israel, where a 17-year-old boy was killed and 12 people wounded in rocket attacks from Lebanon on Friday, Mr. Rabin said he asked U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to pressure Syria to rein in the Hizbullah guerrillas.

"We passed a message on to Christopher yesterday in which I said we saw what happened here as a gross violation of the agreement," Mr. Rabin told reporters, referring to a 1993 agreement between Israel, Hizbullah and Syria.

The white-turbaned cleric was speaking in the town of Nabatiyah hours before the (Continued on page 7)

## Israel wants to call halt to peace — Abed Rabbo

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian Culture Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo charged Saturday that Israel wanted to stop the peace process.

"The Israeli government is following a policy aimed at stopping the peace process," Mr. Abed Rabbo said after the weekly Palestinian National Authority (PNA) meeting here chaired by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Abed Rabbo condemned "Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, continued settlement-building in the occupied territories and the suspension of talks on the Israeli army redeployment" on the West Bank.

Local Government minister Saeb Erakat said meanwhile Israeli and PLO negotiators would meet in Cairo on April 10 and 11 in a fresh bid to reach agreement on Palestinian self-rule elections and an Israeli army redeployment.

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A number of foreigners were among the 200 captured militants, the paper said.

Previous press reports put the death toll from the recent offensives at about 1,300 guerrillas. None of the reports provide an estimate of government losses in the operations.

There has been no official confirmation of the reports.

An unconfirmed communiqué from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the Islamic movements, said it had lost more than 100 men in Ain Defla, 150 kilometres west of

they made progress in drawing up plans for the Palestinian autonomy council.

The head of the Palestinian police said his forces are working in cooperation with Israelis to prevent militant violence but "weak facilities" are hindering their fight.

"There exist Palestinian-Israeli security committees coordinating efforts to fight terrorism," General Nasr Yussef told the Arab daily Al Sharq Al Awsat.

He admitted that there are still shortcomings in the Palestinian police performance but they are "not out of neglect or apathy, but because of weak facilities and inexperience."

Gen. Yussef told the London-based newspaper that Palestinian security had foiled a number of "military operations to be carried out inside the self-rule areas and in Israel."

But he underlined that his

(Continued on page 7)

## Army offensive killed 2,800 militants in Algeria — report

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Algerian army killed 2,800 guerrillas and captured 200 others in a vast offensive in several regions of the country, the daily Liberte reported Saturday.

Citing "several sources," the newspaper said Algerian army units had also freed 116 women being detained by the guerrillas.

It said the recent offensive against armed Islamic fundamentalists included operations in the central Ain Defla region, the eastern Tebessa area and Mascara in the north.

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Algiers.

The statement, signed by its presumed leader Abou Ahoul Rahmeh Amine but not yet authenticated, also admitted that several GIA leaders were among the dead.

The daily L'Authentique, citing authoritative sources, said Saturday it was waiting for "important official news" on the "serious reverses suffered by the terrorist groups."

"The significance of the success of the security forces cannot be denied," it said, adding that the upcoming information could contain "surprises over the fate of important terrorist leaders."

Security forces two weeks ago launched a spate of attacks on groups in operations media reports said were the deadliest in the three years since fundamentalists began their guerrilla war after the cancellation of elections the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Fighting between the secular, army-backed regime and Islamic groups has left more than 30,000 dead since then. Press reports said Afghans,

(Continued on page 7)

## Regent meets U.N. official on Sarajevo

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday met with William Eagleton, the U.N. special coordinator for the city of Sarajevo.

The meeting at the Royal Court dealt with the situation in Sarajevo. Mr. Eagleton extended an invitation to Jordan to attend a donors conference which will be held in Vienna next June. The conference will focus on ways of helping the city of Sarajevo in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 900.

Mr. Eagleton expressed



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday greets William Eagleton, U.N. special coordinator for the city of Sarajevo.

taining peace in former Yugoslavia. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai.

## Baghdad rejects limited oil sale

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's parliament unanimously rejected on Saturday a proposal by the U.S. and Britain to allow Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil to meet humanitarian needs.

The 250-member parlia-

## Jordan demands Israel open nuclear facilities for inspection

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has ex-

posed serious concern over the potential danger to the Kingdom posed by Israel's nuclear facilities, particularly the Dimona reactor, and demanded Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that will allow for international inspections of all atomic installations in the Jewish state.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, in an interview with the Jerusalem Post, also said support for the Jordan-Israel peace treaty risked losing popular support unless the people feel tangible dividends of peace.

In the interview, conducted by Hillel Kuttler in Washington where Mr. Kabariti was accompanying His Majesty King Hussein to talk with U.S. President Bill Clinton, senior administration officials and congressmen, the foreign minister described Egypt's demand that Israel sign the NPT as "very accommodating and forthcoming."

"They are for the objectives of the treaty, but they want to know, also, how and when Israel could also be part of that treaty to give the sense that the area will not come under any Israeli nuclear umbrella we all reject," the Post quoted Mr. Kabariti as saying.

On Jordan's specific concern over Israel's Dimona facility in the Negev desert in the South, Mr. Kabariti described Egypt's demand that Israel sign the NPT as "very accommodating and forthcoming."

"We had the impression that we were caught in the middle of a partisan feud between the Republicans and Democrats, and our debt-reducing programme was about

the peace treaty and is 'negotiating in good faith and earnest' with Israel, he said.

"Now if we are to talk about the general mood, the general feeling towards the peace treaty, I guess there is that large chunk of public opinion (which) supported the peace treaty on the basis of wait and see," he said.

"And this portion of the population are the people who are now leaning towards taking away their support. The support for the peace treaty is slipping away from among this group of people because they think it did not bring with it the expectations and the dividends they were expecting," Mr. Kabariti said.

The government is "fully committed" to implementing

See full text of the interview on page 7

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan had not made up its mind whether to sign the NPT when it comes up for renewal this month.

"We've been discussing this issue with the Arab countries and the non-aligned countries," he said.

The foreign minister said he was satisfied with the outcome of the meetings King Hussein held during his latest visit to the U.S. and the way the administration was handling a move to write off about \$488 million in Jordan's official debts to the U.S.

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At a press conference, Dr. Halaqa said JEDCO had new plans of action for the coming stage in view of developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordan's application to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The corporation's board of directors has taken several decisions to encourage exports, including a reduction in commission charged by JEDCO over exports to Libya and Yemen to 0.5 per cent instead of one per cent and exempting exports of pharmaceutical exports to Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia and Russia from commissions.

Dr. Halaqa said the corporation will conduct further studies on commissions charged over exports.

## Turkish leaflets urge Kurd rebels to surrender

ZAKHO (Agencies) — Tur-

key, criticised by the West for its drive into Iraq, is showering propaganda leaflets on Kurdish guerrillas urging them to surrender and stop "chasing an empty dream," officers said on Saturday.

Turkish aircraft have scattered thousands of blue and white leaflets headed "a Youth's Confession" on Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels in mountains near the Iraqi city of Zakho.

The leaflet, signed by what the army says is a repentant rebel named Ruken, promises the guerrillas they will be well treated if they give themselves up.

"Why sacrifice our lives chasing an empty dream?" it says.

Rebel forces in the area have supplies to last them for up to three months and the rugged terrain makes it difficult to drive them out by military means, an officer told Reuters.

About 35,000 Turkish doctors at the village of Derik near Zakho were treating Iraqi Kurds free of charge. "There are a lot of sick people here. We help them as well as we can and give them our own medicine," Dr. Zekeriya Sayin said.

## JEDCO outlines programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Jordanian Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Mohammad Halaqa said Saturday the corporation had contributed significantly to increasing the volume of Jordanian exports which in 1994 rose by 14 per cent over the previous year.

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## Panel approves Gulf war claims; no payment in sight

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A U.N. fund to pay compensation for deaths and physical injuries as well as material losses resulting from the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has approved more claims, but it was not immediately known how many Jordanian applications were approved for payment or when claimants could expect to be paid.

A U.N. statement received by the Jordan Times said the Geneva-based governing council of the U.N. Compensation Commission approved awards to more than 162,800 claimants.

The statement said about 160,000 claims in category A — from those who were forced to flee Kuwait or Iraq as a result of the invasion — were approved.

Another 800 were approved in category B — those who suffered the death of a family member or serious injury — raising to more than 160,000 the number of accepted claims in this group.

With the new approvals, the total number of claims approved by the governing council of the U.N. commission has reached more than 160,000, with an estimated value of \$870 million, the U.N. statement said.

"With the most recent decisions of the governing council, all of the 95 governments

and 15 international organisations that have filed claims with the commission have now received compensation awards in at least one of three expedited categories of individual claims," it said.

The commission, which says it received "less than \$50 million" in funds since it was launched in late 1993, paid out \$5.5 million in 670 claims in mid-1994. It has frozen all further payments — regardless of approval of claims — until it receives more funds, a senior commission official said in January.

"We do not know when the approved claimants could receive the payments since funds are not yet available," said Michael Raboin, assistant secretary-general of the commission, who was visiting Jordan for talks with officials here on the work of the panel and the parameters it applies while assessing claims.

Two-hundred and forty-one claims from Jordanians worth \$982,000 have been settled, all of them in category B. The total number of Jordanian claims in this category is 813.

Jordanian claims number more than 100,000 in various categories set by the commission; more than two-thirds of these claims are in category A.

The commission's governing council, which is re-



KOZYREV VISIT: Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev escorted by priests and Israeli border guards visits the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem during his tour in the

Middle East trying to boost the peace process between Israel and Arab countries (AFP photo)

## Christopher pointing way to showdown on Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration is nearing critical decisions on stronger economic actions against Iran, with Secretary of State Warren Christopher pushing for stern measures.

Options under consideration include banning all American trade with Iran and prohibiting American oil companies from purchasing Iranian oil for sale abroad.

Sale of Iranian oil in the United States already is prohibited.

Mr. Christopher has labeled Iran an "evil hand," denouncing it as the leading supporter of terrorism in the world and the most active opponent of the Arab-Israel peace he is pursuing as a centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy.

However, even with the likely support of Anthony Lake, the national security adviser to President Bill Clinton, Mr. Christopher is not certain to carry the day when senior policymakers gather in the next week or two at the White House to consider punitive economic actions against Tehran.

The present questioning of the basis of American-Egyptian relations... is unprecedented," said Ibrahim Nafie, editor of the Egyptian government newspaper Al Ahram.

Strong voices within the administration, including the Commerce Department, are concerned tougher restraints on trade with Iran could hurt American businesses that export there.

While direct purchases of Iranian oil for the U.S. market are prohibited now, sub-

sidiaries of American companies are buying about \$4 billion of it annually on the open market. In addition, U.S. exports to Iran — much of it oilfield equipment — totalled \$616 million in 1993, according to Commerce Department figures.

"There are good arguments on all sides," a senior U.S. official told the Associated Press Friday. "The issues are on the table and they are moving toward resolution in the next week or two."

Mr. Christopher led the charge against a \$1 billion oil-export contract Conoco signed with Iran. President Clinton issued an order in March banning the deal after Mr. Christopher, who had hired his Los Angeles law firm to represent it, refused to withdraw from the discussions.

There have been at least two meetings recently of officials from the National Security Council, the Pentagon, the State, Commerce and Energy departments and other interested agencies to weigh further moves against Iran.

Meanwhile, Senator Alfonso D'Amato has proposed legislation to ban all U.S. trade with Iran.

Provisions of Mr. D'Amato's legislation may be incorporated in an executive order from Mr. Clinton — if the decision is taken to step up the pressure on Iran — said the senior U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Friday the United States was mostly hurting itself by trying to isolate Tehran.

In a sermon at a mass Friday prayer meeting, broadcast on Tehran Radio, Mr. Rafsanjani said the United States was "acting in a retaliatory and irrational way on Iranian questions because of two or three serious defeats America has suffered."

He said Washington's decision in March to block the oil deal between Conoco Inc and Iran only hurt the U.S. firm as several non-U.S. companies were willing to cooperate with Tehran.

"American politicians are acting so much out of grudge that they are cutting their own economic veins," Mr. Rafsanjani added.

"He told the crowd that U.S. pressure on Germany, Japan, France and other states had mostly failed.

"These (countries) did not yield to America and went their own way."

But Mr. Rafsanjani admitted that the United States had succeeded in getting Japan to delay the payment of a loan to Iran, but Tehran was willing to accept some defeat for the sake of principles.

His remark triggered the traditional "Death to America" chant from the crowd that had gathered at Tehran University.

In Washington, Mr. Christopher said on Thursday Japan withheld the loan payment because of U.S. efforts.

"Now, that happens... because we've been trying to show the rest of the world that Iran is in a category almost all by itself in what they're doing to undermine the (Middle East) peace process and projecting terrorism around the world. So what we do has a real effect," he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani reminded the faithful that Russia had refused to end its nuclear cooperation with Iran despite U.S. pressure, reiterating that the programme was strictly peaceful.

"Feeling these defeats, U.S. politicians are acting irrationally. They are lying right out," he said.

"It is shameful for the defense minister of a superpower such as America to lie and say that Iran is storing chemical weapons on islands in the Persian Gulf," he added in reference to remarks by Defense Secretary William Perry on a recent Gulf tour.

"This behaviour is undignified of a superpower that should have control over its nerves and find the roots of its defeats," said Mr. Rafsanjani.

Arabsat has launched three satellites since 1985, nine years after it was established. Two of them are still in orbit while the life of the first one has expired.

Officials attending an Arabsat board meeting in Sharjah last week said the organization had fully recovered from financial difficulties and was funding the bulk of its projects from its own resources.

They said this had prompted Arabsat board to slash a bank loan it sought last year to \$35 million from \$104 million.

## Arabs to launch two new satellites

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states will launch two more commercial satellites in the next three years to face growing demand from regional television and telephone companies, the daily Al-Ithhad reported Saturday.

Both satellites are being manufactured by the French air industries giant Aerospatiale, which has also put the previous three Arab satellites in orbit, according to Saad Al Bidia, director general of Arabsat, the Arab League's official space telecommunication institution.

The first satellite will be launched in 1996 and the second in 1998 and they had been financed mainly by Arabsat's own funds, Mr. Bidia told the Al-Ithhad daily.

"Work on the manufacture of the second general of Arabsat satellites is proceeding on schedule. The first will be launched next year and we are planning to launch another one in 1998 due to increasing demand," he said.

"Most of the channels in the first satellite had already been leased. The two have a strong capacity and would cover Europe, Asia and Africa."

Mr. Bidia did not mention the costs of the two new satellites, but Arabsat had contracted with the U.S. Hughes company for the project that was worth around \$250 million. The U.S. firm was dropped after disagreements on financial and technical terms of the contract, according to Hughes sources.

"The project could have been too costly for us," said a Hughes source who is visiting the UAE after his company won a \$120-million contract last week to upgrade the telecommunication network for the UAE army.

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## Mubarak heads for U.S. to discuss NPT, Libya and peace



Hosni Mubarak

A senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said Cairo's dispute over the NPT was "with Israel, which has a nuclear programme capable of threatening Egypt's security."

Egypt has threatened not to sign an extension of the NPT when it comes up for renewal at a United Nations conference next month unless Israel agrees to join up.

Washington has called for an unlimited and indefinite extension of the treaty.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who left for the United States Thursday to prepare Mr. Mubarak's visit, said the Libyan crisis would be discussed in detail and "Egypt has a specific point of view."

Egypt has been under U.N. sanctions since April 1992 after refusing to hand over two suspects wanted for the December 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over the Scottish village of Lockerbie that killed 270 people.

Mr. Mubarak opposes Washington's call for the sanctions to be tightened. They include an air and arms embargo and freeze on sales of oil-related equipment.

U.S.-Egyptian relations were strained in late December when articles appeared in the U.S. press accusing Egypt of violating the embargo against Libya.

"There is no crisis nor tension between Egypt and the United States, but differences which must be tackled in a frank way," said Egypt's Ambassador to Washington Ahmad Maher, quoted by the Al Ahram Weekly newspaper.

But commentators on both sides say they detect a

deeper malaise, with each country rediscovering differences which they repressed when need for each other was greater.

"Egypt can never be a satellite of the United States... it's natural that Egyptian policy should not be identical with U.S. policy," said Presidential adviser Osama Al Baz, who is now in Washington preparing for the visit.

The present questioning of the basis of American-Egyptian relations... is unprecedented," said Ibrahim Nafie, editor of the Egyptian government newspaper Al Ahram.

Strong voices within the administration, including the Commerce Department, are concerned tougher restraints on trade with Iran could hurt American businesses that export there.

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Strong voices within the administration, including the Commerce Department, are concerned tougher restraints on trade with Iran could hurt American businesses that export there.

While direct purchases of Iranian oil for the U.S. market are prohibited now, sub-

sidaries



## End of U.S. military role pushes Haiti into new era

**POR-AU-PRINCE.** Haiti (R) — With military responsibility for Haiti officially out of U.S. hands, the impoverished Caribbean nation Saturday began a new era in its search for stability.

Haitians briefly forgot the woes of unemployment and high prices during President Bill Clinton's 10-hour visit to the Haitian capital Friday, but fears for security in the face of a damaged economy and a rising crime wave were not far off.

"We celebrate the restoration of democracy to your country. Never again must it be stolen away," Mr. Clinton told cheering crowds. He then quickly warned them not to expect miracles. "Justice does not bloom overnight."

"I don't think they want us to leave," said Petty Officer Bill Kennedy as he watched the ceremony marking the transfer of peacekeeping duties to the United Nations from the U.S.-led force.

U.S. officials and Mr. Clinton have stressed that Haiti must New York on the essentials: building a judicial system and training a police force.

Hours after Mr. Clinton left, gunshots were heard at Haiti's National Penitentiary and witnesses said there was a disturbance inside the pris-

on. It is unknown what led up to the gunfire at the prison in Port-Au-Prince. U.N. officials said details were unlikely until later Saturday.

For many in Haiti, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's restoration to power by multinational forces six months ago signalled a chance to shake the legacy of political violence that stretches back to the country's birth in 1804 after a revolt by African slaves.

In its 190 years of existence, nine of Haiti's 41 heads of state declared themselves heads of state for life, and 29 were assassinated or overthrown.

Continuing the pattern of political violence, Haiti was rocked by the assassination of a leading opponent of Mr. Aristide just four days before Mr. Clinton's visit.

Lawyer Mireille Durocher Bertin, 34, and an airplane pilot and client of hers, Eugene Baillergeau, were machine-gunned in broad daylight as they were driving in Port-Au-Prince Tuesday.

Raymond Kelly, a former New York police commissioner helping to train Haitian police officers, called the Bertin murder disturbing.

"What you have to be concerned about is starting a cycle of revenge that we've seen actually throughout

Haiti's history," he said. Haitian investigators, assisted by the FBI, continued their probe into the alleged assassination plot against Ms. Bertin Saturday.

On Friday, Patrick Brutus, a friend and political ally of Ms. Bertin, also claimed to have received death threats.

Mr. Aristide's minister of the interior, Modest Beaubrun, has been implicated in the murder by three suspects, according to White House officials.

The murder was noticed in Washington, where on Friday one of Mr. Clinton's chief political rivals, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, downplayed Haiti's progress and noted that "political assassination appears to be on the rise."

Sen. Dole said the U.S. costs for Haiti would go up to \$2 billion or more than questioned "whether we can afford \$2 billion for Haiti."

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, worried about the continued poverty in Haiti, said the private sector would hold back needed investments until order was restored and legislative elections were held.

Speaking to reports accompanying him on his plane late Friday, the secretary-general said he told Mr. Aristide

while attending a ceremony here that U.N. peacekeepers could not be responsible for security.

Street crime has been rising, interspersed with political killings, and Mr. Aristide wants foreign troops to disarm gunmen while a new police force, without ties to the previous brutal military regime, is being trained.

"And I was very clear to avoid any misunderstanding that the United Nations is not able and we don't have the mandate to do anybody's operation," Dr. Ghali said.

"We are ready to assist (but) this will be his own responsibility," he said.

The United Nations, which took over peacekeeping responsibilities from the United States Friday at a gala ceremony, has a force of only 6,000 soldiers and 900 civilian



U.S. President Bill Clinton shakes hands with a U.S. soldier after speaking to troops at Warrior Base in Port-Au-Prince. Clinton said, "now the world knows once again that the United States will honour its commitment and stand up for freedom" (AFP photo)

## Romania crash black boxes recovered

**BUCHAREST** (R) — Air accident investigators Saturday recovered the black box flight recorders from a Tarom Romanian Airlines Airbus

which crashed Friday, killing all 60 people on board, airline officials said at the scene.

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# World News

## Refugee exodus stalled in Burundi

**GASHOHO,** Burundi (AP) — Tens of thousands of frightened Rwandan refugees camped in misery by the side of a road Saturday, undecided whether to return to the camps they had fled or plod on with the hope of entering Tanzania.

"It's really wait and see," said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), whose field workers were desperately trying to turn back the human tide.

Most of the 50,000 refugees — who arrived from neighbouring Rwanda last year — halted Friday when Tanzania closed its border with Burundi.

"We prefer to stay here until we get permission to move on," Eric Kompanyi, a leader of the refugees, told reporters. "We are deciding what to do."

The refugees are Hutus who sought refuge in Burundi last year, fearing reprisals for the massacres of 500,000 people in their homeland. Most victims were Tutsis.

The killings were directed by extremist Hutu politicians and carried out by elements of the Rwandan army, ragtag militias, and, in some cases, neighbours and former friends of the victims.

A rebel Tutsi army defeated the government, sending its officials and military fleeing into exile. About 2 million civilians joined them, crossing the borders into Tanzania, Burundi and Zaire.

The latest exodus was prompted by an attack Monday in one of seven Rwandan refugee camps near the north-central town of Ngozi.

Twelve Rwandan refugees were killed and 22 wounded. Government officials and aid workers say they don't know who the attackers were, but the refugees assumed they were Tutsis bent on revenge.

Just a few kilometres down the road from Gashoho — a town halfway along the 80-kilometre (50-mile) route to



Rwandan Hutu refugees flee camp in northern Burundi towards the Tanzanian border as new murderous clashes between Hutu civilians and Tutsi troops were reported. Tanzania closed the border with Burundi to halt the exodus. A U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman in Nairobi said there were some 55,000 refugees on the road in a column stretching for 20 kilometres (AFP photo)

Tanzania — is a village housing a Burundi military outpost and a camp of displaced Burundian Tutsis. Burundi's army is overwhelmingly Tutsi.

Fear of passing through that village apparently fuelled the indecision of the 50,000 Hutu refugees on whether to push on toward Tanzania.

As they pondered their next move, the refugees began setting up a makeshift camp along miles of the road, using plastic sheeting to construct flimsy shelters, cooking over open fires and selling food among themselves.

Tanzania, which already houses some 600,000 Rwandan refugees, said it was closing its border because it couldn't care for more refugees.

The Foreign Ministry also said that under international protocols, "refugees are not readily allowed to seek reimmigration to a country other than their first country of asylum."



French Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur holds a glass of white wine during a campaign tour in the southwestern town of Bordeaux (AFP photo)

## Chirac presidency lead narrows — poll

**PARIS** (R) — Presidential frontrunner Jacques Chirac's popularity lead has narrowed in campaigning for France's April-May election to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, an opinion poll said Saturday.

The Ifop poll for several media including the weekly *Le Journal Du Dimanche* credited Paris Mayor Chirac, a conservative, with 24.5 per cent of the vote in the April 23 first round, down on a 28 per cent score a month ago.

Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin was stable in second place with 22 per cent, while Mr. Chirac's conservative rival Prime Minister Edouard Balladur edged up to 20.5 per cent from 19 per cent.

A third of those surveyed however said they might still change their minds.

Mr. Chirac's lead over possible rivals narrowed also in the second run-off vote on May 7. Mr. Chirac was shown beating Mr. Jospin by 57 per cent to 43 (against 59-41 a

month ago) and Mr. Balladur 58-42 (against 64-36).

The Ifop survey was the latest in a series to reflect a narrowing of Mr. Chirac's lead over Mr. Balladur.

Mr. Balladur, the frontrunner until Chirac surge two months ago, has adopted a more aggressive stance in an effort to catch up in the campaign's final weeks.

Mr. Mitterrand steps down next month after two seven-year terms as France's first Socialist head of state.

In theory, the new mandate would encourage the Serbs to negotiate on "reintegration" in Croatia with local autonomy to end a conflict sparked by their 1991 uprising against Zagreb's secession from Serbian-led federal Yugoslavia.

"This resolution strongly reaffirms our territorial integrity and sovereignty," Foreign Minister Mate Gramic said.

"The U.N. protected areas (Serb-held lands) do not exist any more... this will stir (Krajina Serbs) towards negotiations on peaceful reintegration," he told reporters Saturday.

Croatia complained that the three-year-old U.N. presence was only perpetuating a stalemate exploited by separatist Serbs to cement their grip on a third of the country.

Zagreb also argued that the only mission, called the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), was tilted to "protecting" a rogue minority rather than helping reunite a U.N. member state under legitimate government authority.

The new interior minister will be Caspar Einem, 46, a lawyer who is secretary of state for public works. He replaces Franz Loeschak and will himself be replaced by Karl Schloegel, 40, a lawyer and a paid official of the Social Democrat Party (SPOE).

## Russia discusses ways to restore Chechenya

**MOSCOW** (Agencies) — With the last major bastion captured in Chechenya, Russian authorities turned their attention Saturday to how to restore a region damaged in 16 weeks of fighting.

A special government commission chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets met in Moscow to discuss the revival of Chechenya, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The agency quoted First Deputy Economics Minister Andrei Shapovalyants as saying that restoration works would cost 5.3 trillion roubles (more than \$1 billion) in 1995 alone. He said priorities were water, energy, food supplies and housing.

Commercial banks will be invited to help restore the fuel and energy complex of Chechenya, whose oil-processing industry is vital for the Russian economy.

The European Union (EU) issued a warning to Russia Saturday of the consequences of the Chechen crisis on Moscow's future relations with the 15-nation bloc.

"The European Union attaches importance to its relations with Russia which it wants to develop in a spirit of cooperation and partnership," the EU's current president France said in a

statement on behalf of the bloc. "It is worried on this account about the possible consequences of the Chechen crisis on political relations in Europe," it said.

Russia sent thousands of troops backed by tanks and aircraft to end Chechenya's independence bid on Dec. 11, but has been unable to quell dogged resistance by local fighters.

Grozny was captured in February after weeks of fierce air and artillery bombardment and street fighting which left the city, once home to 400,000 people, in ruins.

Thousands of people, mostly civilians, have been killed.

This week, the Russians appeared to have achieved a turning point, taking Gudermes, Chechenya's second city, and on Friday Shali, the last major stronghold of the separatists.

This left Russian forces in control of all the east of Chechenya and about thirds of the whole north Caucasus region. They also control a key railway leading from Russia proper to Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea.

Mr. Soskovets said Friday active military operations would cease after the fall of Shali. But the conflict is not

over yet. TASS said there was fighting around Gudermes Saturday.

The rebels, led by Dzhokhar Dudayev whom Russian forces have not been able to capture, have made secret of their intention to launch a guerrilla campaign from the Caucasus Mountains.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev warned them Saturday against such an attempt.

"Russian Armed Forces will take adequate measures if the remaining forces of Dudayev try to launch an offensive," TASS quoted him as saying.

Other Russian officials dismissed the danger of a wide-scale partisan war.

Russian News Agency (RIA) quoted the commander of the Russian land forces, Vladimir Semyonov as saying: "I doubt that a big partisan war is possible."

Nationalities Minister Nikolai Yegorov, who commanded the Russian operation in Chechenya for several weeks, was more categorical. "There will be no partisan war," he said.

Some Russian defence experts believe that, away from the big towns, the Chechen fighters will be cruelly exposed in their mountain bases

to strikes from Russian warplanes.

This vulnerability will increase with the end of winter and the onset of drier weather, these experts argue.

Russian artillery pounded the Chechen town of Shali Saturday despite Moscow's claims that the former secessionist stronghold fell under its control 24 hours earlier.

Shells were falling on the city centre at the rate of nearly every five minutes, Chechen sources said.

Chechen separatists denied Saturday that they had totally abandoned the city, telling AFP at the gates of the town that a handful of shock troops remained.

Chechen fighters earlier moved their military base to the mountain village of Vedeno, 30 kilometers south of Grozny, and were preparing for Russian air attacks there.

"Now they will attack us in the mountains but we will not give up, we would rather die," Nasir Asaleyev, the rebels' deputy commander in Vedeno, told AFP.

Mr. Asaleyev admitted Saturday the Russians had captured Gudermes, Chechenya's second biggest city and the last urban bastion of the secessionists after Shali.

"We could not say Gudermes was still in our hands," Mr. Asaleyev said.

However, the Chechen source at Khadi-Yurt said Saturday that violent street fighting had persisted throughout Friday night in the city.

Several separatists have said they believe the war will be far from over by May 9, the day of the 50th anniversary commemorations of V-E Day, as predicted by Gen. Grachev.

Gen. Grachev stressed Saturday in Moscow that while some guerrilla warfare will undoubtedly continue through coming weeks, Russia sees the war as an internal affair with little bearing on the international community.

Speaking to a youth organisation in Moscow, Gen. Grachev said he believed the war would not have a harmful effect on summit meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton next month since it is a domestic problem which "does not affect in any way the security of the United States."

Gen. Grachev confirmed he would be discussing the situation in Chechenya with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry during talks Sunday and Monday in Moscow.

## Croatia hails, Serbs condemn new U.N. mandate

**ZAGREB** (R) — Croatia claimed political victory Saturday in obtaining a revamped U.N. force mandate tailored to affirm its sovereignty over territory held by rebel minority Serbs since 1991.

But the Krajina Serbs blasted the changes, which they said were aimed at dismantling their breakaway state, and suggested they may demand a U.N. withdrawal from their domain.

Mr. Ramaphosa, ANC secretary-general and chairman of the Constituent Assembly, said the nine provincial governments should have a federal or unitary constitution.

ANC policymakers had indicated in the past they wanted a strong central government. But party leaders heading seven of the nine new provinces say they cannot implement Mr. Mandela's showpiece development programmes without more decentralisation.

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The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and Vice President F.W. De Klerk's National Party (NP) both seek a federal constitution.

The PML, led by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, adopted the resolution at a joint meeting Thursday of its Central Working Committee

## Debate on S. Africa's final

white rightist groups want an Afrikaner homeland.

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# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1995

## Jordan Times

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### Delivering on external front

WHEN THE government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was formed three months ago, it was hailed as the government of change. The government was supposed to adopt new policies that would prepare the Kingdom to effectively deal with the major changes that have taken place in the country and in the region. On the local level, much had to be done. So was the case in the regional and international arenas.

Almost three months after the new government was sworn in, it is still not possible to scientifically assess its performance on the domestic front. It is noticeable that the government is under less fire from the opposition than its predecessor; it is clear that less people are criticising its approach in dealing with the democratic process and Parliament. However, these indicators on their own cannot be reliable in assessing the performance of the government. Little information is available on the economic situation in the Kingdom. Parliament is in recess, and the focus for the last few months has been on foreign policy. And it is in the foreign policy domain that the government seems to be doing a good job.

After the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, opposition at home and detractors abroad accused the government of having opted to move closer to Israel and the United States at the expense of its ties with other Arab countries. They accused it of compromising on Jordan's rights and of having given up the pursuit of a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The new government has proved these accusations false. A week after it assumed office, its first foreign policy success was improving ties with Egypt. A few days after Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti flew to Cairo and met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian leader paid his first visit to the Kingdom since the Gulf crisis erupted in 1990. Relations with Egypt have continued to get better since then.

So we have relations with Gulf Arab countries. Jordanian officials toured several of these countries, and many Gulf officials visited the Kingdom and signed agreements of cooperation in various fields.

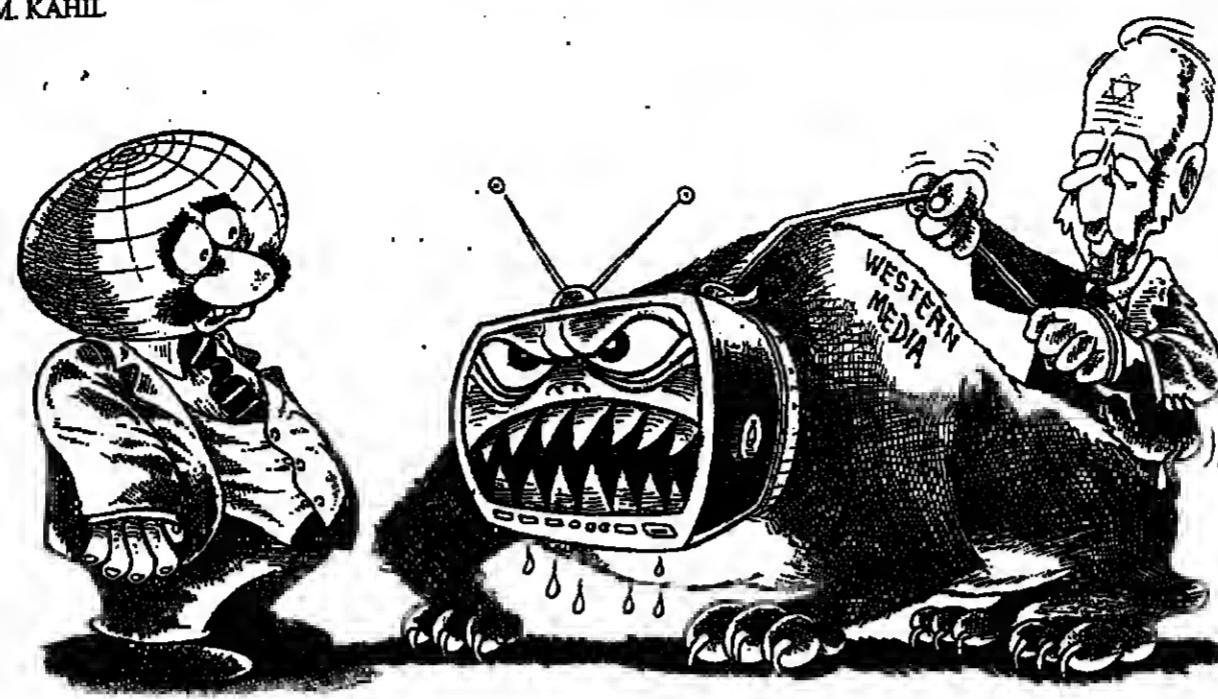
In its policy statement, the government pledged to work hard to end differences among Arab states. And since then it has been working hard to fulfill this pledge. As far as relations with Israel are concerned, the government remains committed to delivering on the obligation it undertook in the peace treaty with Israel. However, the government is standing firm against Israeli policies that are still based on the aggressive and uncompromising ideals of Zionism. The Kingdom's position on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a case in point. Jordan has told Israel it was cheating when it says it will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the area, when in fact it already had. Jordan, the first country downwind from Israel, therefore, supports Egypt's position that calls for subjecting Israeli nuclear installations to international inspection. Jordan also wants a peace that is just and that is lasting and that is comprehensive. While Israel talks about an "Israeli peace," Jordan is pursuing the peace that will bring benefits to the people of the whole region, the peace the man in the street will support and the peace that will cover all Arab-Israeli fronts.

The vibrancy of this government in pursuing and redefining the Kingdom's foreign policy goals has produced many positive results. If the same dynamism is exercised in addressing the Kingdom's domestic concerns, the government will be able to bring about the change that has been promised for a long time, but has been slow, very slow, in coming.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Monday praised His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as 30 years passed since he was named Crown Prince. The paper said the Jordanian people have over the past three decades known Prince Hassan as an energetic man who saves no effort in serving the homeland and the King. It said Prince Hassan was deriving his energy from his Hashemite ancestors who raised the banner of Islam to humanity all over the world and from the heritage of the Great Arab Revolt, led by the Hashemite Sharif Al Hussein Ben Ali, who raised the banner of Arab unity and liberation. Prince Hassan today represents the fourth Hashemite generation this century, it said, noting that he represents in his life and achievements the Arab-Islamic history and the outcome of the struggle of the Hashemite family in the 20th century. It said Prince Hassan on Friday, as he returned home from a European tour, summarised national plans for the current year and dealt with means of enhancing regional stability and cooperation between the countries of the Middle East as well as achieving Arab reconciliation. It said he was clear and very capable of defining the immediate work that has to be done on the national and regional levels.

M. KAHIL



## Democracy: a precondition for Palestinian survival

By Mustafa Barghuthi

NOBODY TODAY questions the absolute need for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. There is, however, a growing awareness that the current peace process fails to meet the needs of the Palestinian people for a just, durable and lasting peace. Even among those who signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement, few are prepared to defend it. The restrictions the agreement imposes on Palestinian autonomy will prevent the emergence of a Palestinian state and undermine foundations for peace. Indeed, the agreement is already shown to be imposing conditions that will lead to greater destabilisation in the area. Furthermore, the Israeli strategy of exploiting the inherent weaknesses of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for short-term political advantage, as they did during the Oslo and Cairo negotiations, will threaten any possible peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestine conflict.

### Threats to stability

The deep flaws in the Gaza-Jericho agreement can be traced to the subordination of Palestinian needs for self-determination to Israeli security needs. Four problems stand out as major threats to future stability. First, dialogue about the future of Jerusalem has been postponed for three years, while each day the Israelis take steps to deepen the separation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories with a view to consolidating the city's illegal annexation. Existing Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem are being expanded and new settlements are being built. Meanwhile, the Israeli government is preventing any Palestinian institutions from organising meetings in East Jerusalem and restricting economic support from the European Union (EU) and other international bodies to Gaza and Jericho. By excluding Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, where many vital Palestinian institutions are located, from much needed development assistance, the Israelis are attempting to erode Palestinian autonomy.

Second, the issue of Israeli settlements is unresolved. Direct discussion of this issue has been postponed, yet each day settlements throughout the territories are being expanded. It is evident that through their settlement activities and Jerusalem policy, the Israelis are creating new facts on the ground while preventing Palestinians from doing so. Israel's actions cast doubt on the viability of a future Palestinian state. But the lack of resistance to such measures by the Palestinian authority also casts doubt on its ability to safeguard Palestinians' interests.

Third, and contrary to the perspective of many people outside the occupied territories, the degree of Palestinian autonomy guaranteed in the Gaza-Jericho agreement is limited. The Israeli government remains in control of 94 per cent of the territories, including at least 40 per

cent of the territory of Gaza. It has also retained the right to veto Palestinian legislation, which requires Israeli approval before it can become law. Moreover, Israeli control of Palestinian life in the autonomous areas remains extensive. All borders remain firmly under Israeli control. Even in civil areas such as health and education, Palestinian authority is restricted. For example, the agreement regarding the transfer of health administration obliges Palestinian health professionals to notify the Israeli authorities if any injured person is admitted to hospital and prevents Palestinians from carrying out post mortem examinations.

Finally, the Jericho agreement has established a dangerous precedent for future negotiations on the status of the West Bank. Palestinian authority is restricted to the populated areas of Jericho town and the neighbouring village of Al Auja, while the road between these two areas remains under Israeli control. In the future, the Palestinian authority may find itself with jurisdiction only over population, rather than land or natural resources. This is inconsistent with the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity upon which statehood rests.

### The leadership's missed opportunities

These are just some of the problems, with this agreement. Many more could be listed. However, the central question which emerges is whether Palestinian negotiators could have achieved a better agreement if they had used the strength and support of the Palestinian people. It was, after all, the resistance of ordinary people during the intifada that initiated the political process that led to the negotiating table. Coordination with other Arab countries would also have helped strengthen the Palestinian hand. Even given the failure to exploit these strengths, many other opportunities were dearly missed. For example, during the fifth round of negotiations, the Israelis offered to withdraw from Gaza, including the removal of all Israeli settlements within its territory.

Against this backdrop, it is hardly surprising that many people have lost hope and are unable to see ways to improve the situation. Reversing this descent into pessimism is vital. But while there is room for change, there is also a need for realism and a clear strategy for achieving a better state of affairs. If the agreements are to be improved and the mistakes committed by the Palestinian negotiators rectified, two things are vital. First, systems of true accountability must be established, giving an effective voice to the people. Second, the mistakes of the past — such as the policy failures in Lebanon and Jordan — must be learnt from; and the opportunities of the present must be grasped. The positive factors that serve the Palestinian interest can still be utilised, but this will not be the case forever. With every new agreement between Israel and Arab countries, it will become increasingly difficult

### The need for accountable leadership

Whether one is for or against the agreement, attention should now be focused on organising the relationship between the Palestinian authority and the people. Contrary to the view of the Palestinian leadership, the democratisation of Palestinian society will be increased by the development and promotion of the infrastructure of resistance. This is especially true of the non-governmental sector, which has a vital role to play in

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Press fails to respond to realities of new times

SINCE JORDAN embarked on its democratic programme in 1989, the Jordanian press enjoyed a reasonable margin of freedom of expression. It gained the ability to criticise officials and expose corruption without fear. However, it did not try to maximise and expand its role and use the new found freedom to the limit, and utilise all the available space it was given.

Part of this failure was due to the unnecessary continuation of the old practices and mentality of journalists and editors, which needs time and pioneers to change.

As far as the national economy is concerned, the press coverage may be adequate in quantity but not in quality. Most of the economic and business stories which appear in the Jordanian press is too dependent on the international media. Sometimes, even the local developments and trends in Amman stock exchange are quoted from Reuters, the Associated Press, or other agencies. The contents of the economic pages are dominated by international news. Not because our press is that internationally-minded, but due to lack of material.

Few economists, if any, write regularly in the Jordanian press. Most others are part-time contributors. It is no wonder that Jordanian newspapers frequently commit gross and obvious mistakes based on misunderstanding, especially when using titles that do not convey the real meaning of the texts concerned.

The Jordanian press still lacks the full-fledged reportage. Investigative journalism is almost non-existent. Newspapers, it seems, can't afford training their editorial staff, or the time and cost needed for assigning journalists for sophisticated stories on public affairs and events.

Dealing with corruption, real or imaginary, has a place in the Jordanian print media. However, the serious daily newspapers try to avoid the tricky subject, due to insufficient evidence, and they try to rid themselves of legal and tribal troubles. The weeklies, on the other hand, welcome such stories, even if they were based on mere rumours, to help circulation and popularity. No serious investigation is normally conducted, and the editor may not bother to give the accused a chance to comment. The result is too many charges and too little credibility.

Corruption is being dealt with in two extreme ways: either reckless publication conducted by the sensational weekly and partisan newspapers, or playing it safe by giving corruption blind eye by the daily newspapers.

Jordanian public opinion is usually inclined to take corruption accusations on their face value, without demanding a proof. People tend to accept corruption charges as true until they are proven untrue.

Due to certain cultural and historical background, the Jordanian public is against corruption but not sufficiently against the corrupt. A corrupt official is sometimes perceived as a strong and daring official. The going word is not theft but benefit. The reason behind this strange attitude is four centuries of Ottoman rule, when the financial relationship between the rulers and the people was simply mutual cheating.

Of course the new democratic atmosphere is not conducive to corruption. Corruption is no more protected by silence. The free press can expose the corrupt. However, the infant democracy, lack of experience, hesitation of the serious press in fighting corruption, or the too basty and unsubstantiated accusations of the weeklies render the press less effective, and sometimes easy target for the suspect instead of the other way around.

Corruption in this context is not only about receiving bribes. It is also about mismanagement, favouritism and the wasting of public time and resources.

### LETTERS

## Embassies in need of well-mannered staff

To the Editor:

IN THE last few months, I was one of those fortunate citizens who had the chance to travel to Europe. But each time I had to get a visa to my destination without naming any particular embassy, I would like to ask those embassies to treat us Jordanians as we treat them. I am not asking them to give us a visa at their respective airports as we do to the nationals of their countries. I am merely asking them to respect us, respect our time, stop harassing us with unnecessary requests, such as information about the amount of money we are taking, and the deeds of our properties.

I am sure if our embassies treat European citizens in the same way when they try to obtain visas to come to Jordan, the issue will be publicised worldwide in every newspaper. It would qualify Jordan as anti-human or God knows what?

I sincerely hope that those embassies change their way of treatment by appointing and increasing the number of well-qualified and well-mannered staff who can say no in a nice way.

(Name withheld upon request)

## No to cabinet reshuffle

To the Editor:

I HAVE HAD the opportunity to work closely with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for several years through the Madaba Mosaic School technical cooperation project between the Italian and Jordanian governments. During this time I have seen several ministers come and go due to changes and shifts in the cabinet. Now we are hearing rumours of yet another change in government. Even though these changes may be warranted, the frequency with which they happen have a negative effect on long range planning and continuity.

Every minister appointed tends to see things from a different perspective and has different priorities. From experience, I have noticed that at the point when the new minister begins to understand the various programmes and projects, he/she is changed and we have to start all over again. I believe that this can only affect negatively the development process of Jordan.

What instigated my desire to write this letter is that when I heard that the Cabinet might be changing, the first thing that came to mind is that they might change the current minister of tourism and antiquities. Therefore, I decided that before this new Cabinet change I wanted to take a personal initiative and make my views known.

The current minister of tourism has respectable work ethics and truly takes the time to investigate and make changes. It makes me proud that a person at his level is willing to come before all employees arrive and leave after all employees have been home for several hours. Moreover, he has sincerely tried to help solve some of the institutionalised problems which not only this ministry but all ministries suffer from. I would really hate to see him changed. His case, I believe, is that of one person whose presence can really make a difference.

Dr. Aida Dabbas,  
Amman.

## Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1995 7

# Kabariti: The Israelis are cheating when they say 'we will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the area'

## 'It has been our policy to demand that the Israeli nuclear facilities be under international inspection'

FOLLOWING IS the full text of the interview that Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti gave to the Jerusalem Post last week. The interview was published Friday.

The big issue during King Hussein's visit here this week was the \$275-million allocation for Jordanian debt relief, which Congress has not yet signed off on. How do you view progress toward its approval?

I am very satisfied with the way it's being handled right now. We had the impression that we are caught in the middle of a partisan feud between the Republicans and the Democrats, and our debt-relief programme was about to be the victim of this dispute.

However, I think things have been sorted out with the Congress and the administration, and (Tuesday) we were given the impression that the debt relief will be done in a way that will be very satisfactory for both (sides), Jordan and the Congress... But the full amount will be granted. Has Congress not been forthcoming on President Clinton's pledge to King Hussein to wipe out the debt, or was it a misunderstanding between the two branches?

This is exactly the word that they use, that there has been some kind of misunderstanding between Congress and the administration. And (on Capitol Hill) they denied the accusations that were (made) against them that they were insensitive to Jordanian needs and to the significance and importance of debt relief to Jordan. How important an issue is this to Jordan?

Symbolically, the administration, being a partner in peacemaking, should... really deliver on these promises or understandings for the peace process to continue, because we feel Jordan could be an example, a model that could induce others or could in fact make it hard for them to take the risks, or if I may be picky in my words, take the leap to peace.

Are you referring to the benefits Syria may be seeking?

I'm not talking only materially. I'm talking about the commitment of the international community of showing the interest not only of signing the treaties and letting go, but also to keeping the peace and building it to have really something to endure.

King Hussein stressed the need to bring home the benefits of peace to the "person in the street." Has the average Jordanian enjoyed the benefits yet?

Definitely not yet. There are high expectations, high hopes, as you may call it, (for) the fruits of peace. For the Jordanian public, it was taken for granted that once the government signed the peace treaty with the Israelis, things would be much better and would reflect positively for their well-being.

As time passes, they feel nothing has materialised. Talking about only debt relief and mega-projects, something like the Jordan Rift Valley project, doesn't really relate to their well-being

and their expectations.

The questions are pending as far as how much peace will contribute to alleviating the daily pressures, the daily job opportunities, lowering the poverty levels in Jordan and improving the standard of living... We need to know that the international community is really forthcoming...

How do you evaluate Israeli-Jordanian relations in the five months since the treaty was signed?

Again, we will have to differentiate and distinguish between the official commitment and the popular feeling toward that peace treaty. Officially, on the government side, definitely we were fully committed and we are negotiating in good faith and in earnest to implement fully all the agreements that came with the treaty.

Now if we are to talk about the general mood, the general feeling toward the peace treaty, I guess there is that large chunk of public opinion who supported the peace treaty on the basis of wait and see. And this portion of the population are the people who are now leaning toward taking away their support.

The support for the peace treaty is slipping away from among this group of people because they think it did not really bring with it the expectations and the dividends they were expecting.

How much of a concern is that to you?

I'm very much concerned, because in the final analysis, for peace to be durable and sustained, the popular support is very much needed. Next month the international community will meet in New

York about extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. What is Jordan's position on the extension?

We are the country that has the longest border with Israel, and your nuclear facilities — if I may use the expression, the most notorious one, in Dimona — is very close, it's only 20 miles (32 kilometers) away from a Jordanian city, Tafila. Especially when you talk about a quote-unquote Chernobyl-like incident, any kind of leakage or proliferation will definitely affect us environmentally and threaten the well-being and the health of the area.

It's been our policy to demand that the Israeli nuclear facility should be under close international inspection, maybe by the International Atomic Energy Agency. And that's why we are very much for the NPT agreement, very much for its objectives.

Does that mean that you have decided that you will sign the extension?

We haven't decided yet, to tell you the truth. We've been discussing this issue with the Arab countries and the non-aligned countries.

Last week's Arab League resolution in Cairo seemed to leave some room for a resolution.

Room was there... (The conflict) somehow brought into the picture the idea of Israel as wanting detente rather than peace in the area — detente in the sense of being engaged diplomatically with all the Arab countries, backed by an overwhelming force and exercising supremacy and exercising

leadership rather than partnership.

What about Egypt's role in pressuring the issue?

I find the Egyptian position very accommodating and forthcoming.... They are for the objectives of the treaty, but they want to know, also, how and when Israel could also be part of that treaty to give the sense that the area will not come under any Israeli nuclear umbrella that we all reject.

How much of a problem for Jordan has the Syrian opposition to the treaty with Israel been?

It is a problem in the sense that we in Jordan would like to maintain a special and privileged relationship with Syria...

(But) we felt immediately after the Oslo agreement that if we are to wait any longer, then the best interest of Jordan would really be served... I think that the Syrians are committed to peace. Once the Israelis make it clear that they are willing to make peace with Syria based on all the land for all the peace, I think the Syrians will go along.

How do Egyptian-Jordanian relations stand after Cairo complained it was bypassed in your agreement with Israel?

Our relationship with Egypt is very strong, and cooperation and coordination are at a very good level. We feel that the Egyptian role in the area and in the furthering of the cause of peace has been earned by the Egyptians by the fact that they are the largest country, they were the first to sign a peace treaty with Israel and they have always been a moderating influence in the area in the last 20 years or so.

What about your relations with Saudi Arabia, which took a hit since Jordan supported Iraq in the Gulf War?

There's not much that could be said right now. It's normal. Our ambassador has taken up his post in Riyadh. We are very keen to improve the relations and will not spare any effort to better the relationship with the Saudis.

Shimon Peres has stated that Israel would consider joining the NPT only after it reaches a comprehensive peace that includes Iran, Iraq and Libya.

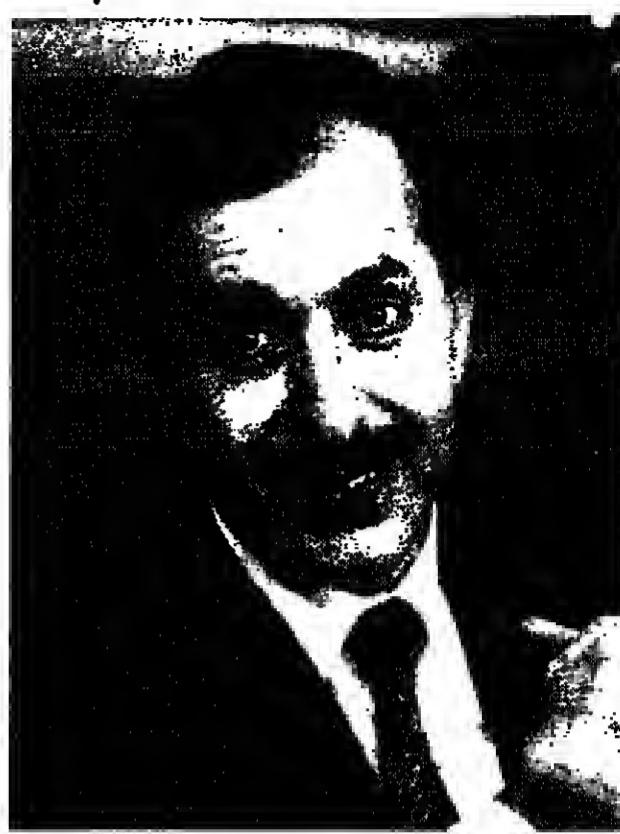
I have discussed this with Mr. Peres when he brought up the subject. You cannot manufacture a monster for you to be able to have a role in the area. And if we are to keep pumping up the Iranian threat out of proportion, then we will be playing with fire.

In the final analysis, the Iranian nuclear facilities are under international inspection, and they are a member of the treaty.

Maybe that could be a good reason for the Israelis to join, to allay the fears of the people of the area — and if they want to cheat, this is up to them to do it if they feel that the Iranians are cheating.

Israel maintains that is exactly the flaw in the NPT, because Iran is a signatory yet can acquire nuclear weapons legally.

I personally think also that the Israelis are cheating when they say 'We will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the area' — which means they do



Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti: We need to know that the international community is really forthcoming

have the capability. I feel that apparently the Israelis do have it and do intend to use it as a deterrent in the area and use it also as a way to exercise their supremacy...

We are very much for good neighbourly relations with the Israelis, we are very much for having them for friends and even having them as partners for the development of the area. And again, it seems to me whenever the Israelis talk about peace, they talk about Israeli peace, and when we talk about peace we talk about comprehensive, just, durable peace. What is your vision of a Mid-

dle East at peace?

This perception of seeing Israel as greedy, that they want everything and they don't want to give anything, should be addressed in a way that the people of the area — and I'm not talking about the Jordanian people, I'm talking about the Arab side in general — should feel that the Israelis do really have an interest to live in the area as part of the area, not as a threatened group of people who will have to maintain some kind of super capability for them to be able to exercise supremacy over the Arab countries.

## Spies who sleep in the cold

Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem reports on the 25,000 Palestinian collaborators cast out by their families and abandoned by the Israelis. They are now seeking a home of their own.

EVERY EVENING as the day falls over Jerusalem, Omar Suwaihi and his band of self-confessed quislings bring out their bottles of arak and dream of a new settlement for an emerging class of homeless Palestinians.

The

collaborators' pre-dicament first surfaced in 1988 after the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada. In the occupied territories the identities of many were never a secret; they were the ones with luxury cars, extra telephone lines and a licence to carry weapons.

A settler's leader, Pinhas

Wallerstein, said the squatters were aided by settlers

councils.

"There is no reason why

people should live in dirty

caravans when there are buildings left empty by the government for political reasons," he said.

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# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1995

## Arabs fail to tap trade fund despite incentives

**ABU DHABI (AFP)** — Arab states have failed to exploit a key fund they created five years ago to bolster flagging trade among them despite its attractive credit facilities, official figures showed Friday.

Although the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) offers loans at easy repayment and interest terms, credits extended to its 22 Arab League members have remained below 20 per cent of its annual capacity of \$1 billion.

Figures released by the Abu Dhabi-based ATFP showed it had received 43 credit applications in 1994 with a value of around \$198 million but it approved 35 applications worth \$10 million.

It was the highest level of credits the fund has endorsed since it was established by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) in 1989. The figure brought it to around \$500 million the total loans provided by the ATFP.

"Considering its annual financing capacity, this means that the fund is running at 10 per cent of capacity," said a source close to the AMF.

**Japan, China and EU top list of closed U.S. trade partners**

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** — Japan, China and the European Union (EU) topped the list of countries under review for barriers to foreign trade in an annual U.S. report on access to foreign markets released here Friday.

Japan alone accounted for 40 pages, or 18 per cent of the 320-page report on foreign trade barriers, followed by the European Union at eight per cent and China at six per cent.

This reflected the fact that the three countries represent major trade imbalance with Washington — the United States had a trade deficit of \$65.7 billion with Japan last year, of \$29.5 billion with China and of \$8.1 billion with the EU.

Much of the Japanese section was devoted to Washington's continued failure to persuade Tokyo to open its auto market, which accounts for 60 per cent of Japan's massive \$65 billion trade surplus with the United States.

The report listed more than a dozen trade agreements that have been struck in the past 18 months, but said that "the U.S. government is strongly dissatisfied with the absence of progress in the auto and auto parts."

"Every effort will be made in the near future to encourage

The AMF, which is overseeing economic reforms in the region, contributed half of the ATFP's capital. The rest came from other regional financial institutions, including the Islamic Development Bank.

Its operations cover only home-made products, except oil, with the aim of encouraging productivity as part of the reforms.

Experts said demand for ATFP credits had picked up in the past two years because inter-Arab political rifts were easing. But they noted the value of credits sought by members remained low as commercial deals are small.

Most of the commercial transactions financed by ATFP did not exceed an average \$20 million each.

This is because Arab non-oil exports are limited and their industries are similar," one expert said. "Another key factor is that Arab products cannot compete in some regional markets that are open to products from other countries."

Arab states still impose high customs tariffs on imports from each other despite a 1970 agreement on removing customs barriers as part

of attempts to integrate their economies.

High tariffs combined with their limited industry, political differences, lack of finance and problems associated with storage and communications have blocked their bid to boost internal trade.

As a result, trade among the 22 members has remained below 10 per cent of their total trade over the past two decades.

Despite the creation of the ATFP, inter-Arab exports even declined to \$12.8 billion in 1993 from \$14.5 billion in 1990, while internal imports increased slightly to \$11.1 billion from around \$10.5 billion.

Oil exports account for around 35 per cent of total Arab trade and as much as 65 per cent of total exports.

Most of the crude exports are to Japan, Europe and other industrialised countries.

The ATFP project includes the establishment of a computerised trade data network that will link Arab markets and disseminate information on products, demand, supply, prices and economic indicators in each member state.

## Yemen opposition rejects government reforms

**SANA'A (R)** — Yemen's opposition has rejected government economic reforms which sparked protests this week, saying they threaten the impoverished country's political and economic stability.

Opposition parties issued a statement late Friday night condemning "economic measures approved by the government which impoverish the people, and threaten social peace and national stability."

They called on Yemen's ruling coalition government — the General Peoples Congress and the Islamist Islah

Party — to allow all parties to "prepare a comprehensive programme to reform economic, financial and monetary policies."

They said such reforms should only be implemented if approved by the people in a national referendum.

Protests erupted after the government doubled prices of petrol, cooking gas and other energy products on Tuesday night as part of a reform programme.

Witnesses said police used tear gas and fired shots into the air to disperse demonstrators in two residential areas of the southern city of Aden

on Wednesday, wounding four people.

The unrest seems to have subsided after the Muslim weekend and residents in Sana'a and Aden reported that the streets in both cities were quiet on Saturday.

Deputy minister of information, Mutabar Tagi, on Saturday denied that there were injuries during the unrest.

"Things are back to normal in all governorates," he told reporters.

Newspapers in the region reported that Yemen's security forces had cracked down on scores of currency dealers,

arresting them on charges of damaging the local currency.

Residents in Aden and Sana'a said most currency dealing shops were closed on Saturday. Diplomatic sources said dozens of currency dealers were detained in the past few days and their shops ordered shut by the authorities.

Relatives of some currency dealers confirmed the arrests and said others had gone into hiding.

The new measures included raising the official exchange rate to 50 riyals to the dollar from 12 while the

greenback fetched 140 riyals on the black market, residents said.

Mr. Tagi said the government would press on with its plans and that economic reforms "would continue for three years."

Yemen has been plagued by a deep economic crisis, 100 per cent inflation and high unemployment for years. The country's 1994 civil war also dealt the economy a major blow.

The country's main seven opposition groups hold about 75 seats in the 301-member elected parliament.

## UAE hikes cigarette import tax to 50 per cent

**ABU DHABI (AFP)** — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday joined its Arab Gulf neighbours in raising taxes on tobacco and cigarette imports in a drive to combat smoking and offset weak oil prices.

Finance and Industry Minister Hamdan ibn Rashid Al Maktoum raised the tariff to 50 per cent from 30 per cent, the second increase in a year to combat smoking and offset weak oil prices.

Dealers estimated tobacco consumption in the six members exceeded 20 billion cigarettes a year, with a value of more than \$1 billion.

The hikes also helped

boost the non-oil revenues of GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and

ports," a ministry official told AFP.

The rise was in line with an agreement by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to hike duties on imported tobacco in a campaign to cut consumption which has grown sharply due to low cigarette prices.

Dealers estimated tobacco consumption in the six members exceeded 20 billion cigarettes a year, with a value of more than \$1 billion.

The move is the latest in a series of government measures to boost non-oil earnings to shore up a persistent budget deficit caused by low

crude prices.

They include quadrupling customs tariffs on other imports to four per cent and introducing fees on residence, health, education, trade licences, traffic and other government services.

From less than \$200 million in 1975, the UAE's non-oil income surged to around \$870 million in 1994 and was projected to exceed \$1 billion in 1995, according to budget estimates.

Despite the tax increase, cigarette prices remained unchanged on Saturday but traders said they could be

raised slightly in the next few weeks.

They ruled out a strong impact on consumption given the high per capita income of around \$18,000.

"The price rise naturally affects demand," one trader said. "But I don't think the effect will be strong as people here can afford it."

Most of the UAE's cigarette imports come from Britain, France, the United States, Japan and India. The average price of a Western 20-cigarette packet is around \$10.

## Arab World burdened by 15m out of work

**CAIRO (AFPI)** — More than 15 million people are unemployed in the Arab World and 2.5 million more join their ranks every year, the head of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) said Saturday.

The employment situation has not improved despite Arab countries' efforts. Negative signs have appeared in countries that were once distanced from unemployment," Bakr Rasoul told the Arab daily Ash Sharq Al

Awsat.

He said that 2.5 million new job-seekers are added yearly to 15 million unemployed, representing an average unemployment rate for Arab states of 15 per cent.

The ALO is to begin its 22nd session Monday in Alexandria, 225 kilometres north of Cairo.

The ALO director said that Arab countries have started to show the same "unemployment characteristics, such as unemployment of new entrants into the labour market.

Awsat

of qualified labour and of women," as well as longer-term unemployment.

"Economic reform programmes have not helped lighten the burden of unemployment," he added.

Mr. Rasoul said that labour migration between countries has done little to raise employment figures. He pointed out that the number of workers travelling to other Arab countries for work increased from 900,000 in 1975 to 3.5 million in 1985, but

average unemployment did not decrease.

However, expatriate workers sent over \$60 billion back to their home countries during the 1980s, "which represents a high proportion of their national incomes," he said.

"We feel that facilitating capital transfers and opportunities for Arab investment will have an effect in reducing unemployment," he added.

Mr. Rasoul said the ALO issued a 12-part regional strategy in 1993 to fight unemployment but admitted that getting Arab nations to implement its recommendations was "a thorny legislative problem."

"Decades can pass before nations get around to issuing new (economic) legislation, so how is it to be with legislation suggested to them from abroad?" he said.

## Some Greek farmers lift road blockades for a week

**ATHENS (R)** — Some of Greece's rebel farmers, fighting a new tax law, agreed Saturday to lift the road and rail blockades which have caused transport chaos for 13 days in a goodwill gesture to the Socialist government.

"We are calling off our blockade for one week to give the government time to solve our problems," said Yannis Pataki, a farmers' leader in the Thessaly region where the revolt began. "But if no solution is found, we'll be back more united and stronger than ever."

Mr. Pataki was speaking a day after Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou

appealed to farmers to give up their mutiny.

While farmers is fertile Thessaly were at the heart of the tax revolt, they have no control over thousands of farmers from across the country who joined in later. Reports from other regions showed strong resistance to abandoning the barricades.

Farmers in the Macedonia region vowed to fight on, refusing to lift blazing barricades around the airport at Salonia, Greece's second city and main northern port.

Rebel farmers just outside Athens at the Schimatari toll station on the national highway said they, too, would

press on with their blockade.

The tax revolt, backed by thousands of colourful tractors blocking roads and railways, has trapped some 7,000 lorries on the main highways, dealing heavy blow to the economy.

The farmers are enraged at a new Socialist tax law, being applied to 1994 returns, which sets out a list of "objective criteria" to determine tax rates and ignores declared income.

The Thessaly farmers' decision to lift their blockades could weaken resolve in other regions or make it easier for the government to send riot police against remaining barricades.

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## Investors take a shine to gold and silver

LONDON (R) — Gold prices soared to their highest levels since early October as a massive buying spree by U.S. investment funds spilled over from silver Friday.

Gold fixed at \$392 an ounce and peaked above \$396, well above Thursday's levels around \$383 as the funds poured money into the markets. Gold later eased to close at \$391.75.

"Yesterday was silver's day, today it's been gold's turn. The U.S. funds went after it in a big way," one London bullion dealer said.

Silver prices have now soared 10 per cent and gold nearly three per cent in under 24 hours.

Silver jumped from 475 to above 530 cents in hectic New York futures trading on Thursday as the market hit its highest level also since last October.

Analysts traced the cause of the surges back to Thursday's half-point interest rate cut by the German central bank.

"The Bundesbank move was the key. The idea that Germany was willing to share the global inflation burden was interpreted by many investors as a reason to buy precious metals," said Andy Smith, bullion analyst at Union Bank of Switzerland.

"Here is the world's most prudent central bank cutting rates at the time of economic growth. It's taking risks when such words were not thought to be in its vocabulary."

The funds had taken the view that global rates were now heading lower, dealers said. "That's good for economic prospects and good for industrial metals like silver," one said.

Others said the rate cut had made the market less attractive as a safe haven for funds and gold had benefited as a result.

So steep was silver's climb that the New York futures market announced a rise in margins, or deposits, for silver traders.

The exchange said it will raise spot-month margins to \$1,900 from \$1,400 per lot for clearing members and customer hedging transactions and to \$2,565 from \$1,890 for customer speculative transactions.

## Saudi Arabia petrochemical income hits four-year high

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An increase in production and prices has boosted Saudi Arabia's petrochemical income to its highest level in four years as the kingdom presses on with further expansion, official figures show.

Net profits by the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) nearly doubled to 4.2 billion Saudi riyals (\$1.12 billion) in 1994, from around 2.12 billion riyals (\$565 million) in 1993, according to a SABIC report.

SABIC's board approved a dividend of 20 per cent to the Saudi government and other shareholders, the biggest cash distribution since the Arab World's largest chemical firm was established in 1994, from around 2.12 billion riyals (\$565 million) in 1993, according to a SABIC report.

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citizens and the rest by other Gulf investors. The government said last year it would slash its shareholding by nearly half as part of economic reforms to offset low oil prices.

Saudi Arabia has around 260 billion barrels of oil reserves and produces nearly eight million barrels per day, accounting for 12 per cent of the total world crude supplies.

Its petrochemical output exceeds half the total Arab production of around 14 million tonnes.

The SABIC report showed its total assets grew by around 11.5 per cent to 41.44 billion riyals (\$11 billion), including seven billion riyals (\$1.86 billion) in liquidiv.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET  
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - SEMEIGAN  
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170  
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 01/04/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. TRADE JD	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	640	121750	190,000 190,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3750	17165	4,380 4,380
JORDAN ELECTRICAL BANK / NEW	1587	1000	4,000 4,000
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	9120	8173	1,420 1,430
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1380	3601	2,750 2,660
THE HOUSING BANK	5450	33245	6,100 6,100
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	891	2546	2,850 2,870
JORDAN GULF BANK	6450	7998	1,180 1,240
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	8682	33917	3,900 3,910
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	200	980	4,900 4,900
BUSINESS BANK	1420	1200	3,700 3,700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	750	2682	3,580 3,590
BEST BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2060	6246	3,020 3,080
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	184650	216794	1,140 1,200
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	30650	39084	1,240 1,300
<b>SAKS SECTOR</b>	284380	505755	INDEX NUMBER: 160,82 CHANGE: +0,25%
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	200	370	1,800 1,850
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	22627	59336	2,610 2,620
DELTA INSURANCE	500	1050	2,000 2,100
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	23237	60755	INDEX NUMBER: 165,75 CHANGE: +0,21%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW	31250	51876	1,630 1,670
JORDANIAN HOTELS /NEW	35150	55597	1,570 1,580
JOHNSON CONTROLS /NEW	10000	7000	7,000 7,000
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS /NEW	257995	1646009	6,080 6,280
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPBUILDING LINES	3359	20601	5,850 6,140
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	9400	28217	3,970 3,040
PHILADELPHIA INDUSTRIES	750	1575	2,000 2,100
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1500	1700	1,700 1,700
JORDAN PEACE FOUNDATION / ALBA 'I	31750	34850	1,050 1,100
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	100	1038	10,050 10,350
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	61900	155339	2,420 2,520
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	347	1157	3,320 3,330
ATTACHEE CORRY. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	1000	10484	1,030 1,080
JOHNSON CONTROLS /NEW	1152	31488	9,350 9,400
JORDAN TANNING	415	3133	7,500 7,550
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	600	1068	3,500 3,600
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	3400	12131	7,000 7,000
THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT METALS	682	1711	7,000 7,000
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	8980	37207	4,140 4,160
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	200	1150	5,750 5,750
JORDAN DAIRY	200	465	2,330 2,330
THE JORDAN PIPELINE MANUFACTURING	1250	3415	2,700 2,730
SHARJAH INDUSTRIES	1500	3100	2,500 2,500
DAFFA INDUSTRIES	2442	6171	2,550 2,550
DAR AL DAHA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1284	9869	7,650 7,650
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	108180	103838	.930 .940
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	159617	112238	.680 .710
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	53350	7735	1,470 1,500
LIMASSOL PLASTIC & CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	8000	17305	2,440 2,430
JORDAN ROCKSOL INDUSTRIES	6200	9880	1,190 1,190
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	800	4,000 4,000
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/ENCO	23200	16362	.680 .700
NATIONAL CARBON & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1150	5175	4,540 4,500
JOHNSON CONTROLS /NEW	2100	1552	1,700 1,700
BRAS CHEM. FOR PLASTIC & CHEMICALS	3180	7334	2,300 2,250
KANTER INVESTMENT	1380	2093	1,850 1,850
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	2950	10349	3,520 3,510
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	9880	20191	2,050 2,050
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	436650	527549	INDEX NUMBER: 120,80 CHANGE: +0,21%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	2130358	10295522	INDEX NUMBER: 142,41 CHANGE: +0,48%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	1	239495	
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	1	283623	

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

**Financial Jordan Times**  
 Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close 30/3/95	New York Close 31/3/95
Sterling Pound*	1,6035	1,6225
Deutsche Mark	1,4090	1,3730
Swiss Franc	1,1690	1,1293
French Franc	4,9120	4,8000
Japanese Yen	89,61	86,60
European Currency Unit	1,2990	1,3310

\* and for SITC  
\*\* European Opened at 1600 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTN	3 MTNS	6 MTNS	12 MTNS
U.S. Dollar	5,87	6,00	6,18	6,50
Sterling Pound	6,12	6,25	6,75	7,31
Deutsche Mark	4,62	4,75	4,81	5,04
Swiss Franc	3,37	3,57	3,56	3,68
French Franc	7,87	7,87	7,62	7,57
Japanese Yen	1,87	1,87	1,75	1,76
European Currency Unit	4,50	4,34	4,73	6,94

Interest rate for month remaining U.S. Dollars 1,2000% or equivalent.

Product Metals	Date: 31/3/1995
Gold	USD/Oz : JD/Gm <sup>2</sup>
Gold	391,40 7,60
Silver	3,30 0,100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/4/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0,6840	0,6840
Sterling Pound	1,1080	1,1135
Deutsche Mark	0,4982	0,5007
Swiss Franc	0,6050	0,6080
French Franc	0,1491	0,1494
Japanese Yen	0,7395	0,7034
Dutch Guilder	0,4446	0,4468
Swedish Krona	0,000000	0,000000
Italian Lira*	0,0401	0,0403
Belgian Franc	0,000000	0,000000

\* Per 100

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## DAVIS CUP

## Sweden and United States take charge while Germany and Russia struggle

**PARIS (AFP)** — Champions Sweden and favourites the United States made brisk starts in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-finals Friday — but last year's finalists Russia and 1993 titleholders Germany both struggled.

Austria's Davis Cup hopes, already seriously compromised through illness and injury, all but disappeared in Vaxjo.

Magnus Larsson beat Austrian number-one Thomas Muster in straight sets 6-1, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 and former world number-one Stefan Edberg beat Alexander Antonitsch 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The Austrians, who scored a remarkable 4-1 victory over Spain in the last round, had been unable to field their first choice team.

Gilbert Schaller, currently ranked 47th and fresh from a confidence-boosting victory in last weekend's ATP event in Casablanca, was taken ill and confined to his hotel bedroom with a bad cold and temperature earlier in the week.

And the Austrian problems were not helped when it was revealed that 29-year-old Antonitsch, promoted by non-playing captain Ronald Leitgeb to take over the Davis Cup World Group quarter-final.

Sampars struggled to find his form in the early stages but eventually proved too strong for the Italian.

The match was played in cold, blustery conditions having been postponed on Friday because of heavy rain after world number two Andre Agassi had defeated top-ranked Italian Andrea Gaudenzi in straight sets in the opening match.

The United States will clinch a place in the last four if doubles pairing Richey Re-



A disappointed Boris Becker

making his first appearance on clay this year, beat Renzo Furlan 7-6, 6-3, 6-0 on Saturday to give the United States a 2-0 lead over Italy in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final.

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The United States will clinch a place in the last four if doubles pairing Richey Re-

neberg and Jared Palmer can overcome Stefano Pescosolido and Cristian Brandi later on Saturday.

"I like Palermo, but the weather cold be better," grinned American team captain Tom Gullikson, adding: "I'm bopping for 75 degrees (22 C) and perfect conditions on Saturday."

Gullikson paid a warm tribute to Agassi, who was playing his first match on the slow red clay surface since last year's French Open.

"Gaudenzi played well in the first two sets, but Andre was able to hurt him more on the return of serve.

"He finished the points at the net and threw in a few

drop shots, I think he played great and he certainly got us off to a good start."

Agassi said: "I feel honoured to see the respect that the crowd had. They were supportive but polite. It was absolutely perfect."

The Australian Open champion said he did not think the heavy conditions would upset Sampars, despite the fact that his teammate and tour rival will be playing on his least favourite surface.

"It's possible for him not to play so well. But Pete feels good and I'm not so sure the conditions will have an impact.

Boris Becker, who boasts one of the best Davis Cup records in the world, slumped

to a shock defeat against Paul Haarhuis to leave Germany struggling in their clash with the Netherlands at Utrecht.

Becker, the world number-three who had previously won 34 of 36 Davis Cup singles matches, went off the boil after a bright start and was beaten 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 6-7 (4-7) by the world's 38th ranked player.

It was left to Becker's teammate Michael Stich to steady the boat by seeing off big-serving Dutch number-one Richard Krajicek 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

In Moscow, Russia and South Africa also completed the first day level-peggng at 1-1.

Evgeny Kafelnikov gave the home side an ideal start with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Marcus Ondruska. But Wayne Ferreira hit back for the South Africans, beating Alexander Volkov 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-4.

Kafelnikov, the Russian number-one, was always in charge against Ondruska. Having taken the first set in 26 minutes, he dictated the pace for the rest of a match which ended with tears of approval from the 10,000 spectators.

Kafelnikov responded by throwing his shirt into the crowd.

"It was very important for us to win the first match," he told a news conference afterwards, adding: "I think we have now 60 per cent chance to win it all."

The second rubber, which at one stage looked promised to Volkov, ended in disappointment for the home fans.

Ferreira, currently ranked 11th in the world, ended on top after a 3hrs 41mins epic.

Reeves did more than that: He put Gans on the map.

"People never would have known where it was," school superintendent Charles Ballard said. "But anyone who follows college basketball knows about Bryant Reeves, and anyone who knows about Bryant Reeves knows about Bryant Reeves."

Gans, population 218, is located 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of the Arkansas border. Most residents either raise cattle or, like Reeves' father, work in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The school has about 280 students and for years had just one sport until baseball became its star. Drivers in pickup trucks wave at everyone they pass.

The community is so tight that Reeves once re-

jected suggestions that he move to a bigger school to improve his chances of playing major college basketball.

"Bryant didn't want to," said his mother, Carolyn, a teacher's aide. "He said this was his home. And they found him."

Indiana coach Bob Knight came to Gans, and so did Eddie Sutton from Oklahoma State. Tom Kennedy remembers "a large crowd — about 30" turning out for Sutton's visit.

"Ol' Sutton had some faith. Bryant was growing so fast. But coach Sutton knew more than the rest of us," said Kennedy, who lives a few houses down from Reeves' grandmother.

Reeves indeed was a project at Oklahoma State. Sutton said he had hoped Reeves could contribute by the time he was a sophomore.

They see him when he comes home and ask him about bass and crappie, not rebounds and blocks.

To everyone else they meet, however, the talk is all basketball and all about big country.

The day after the Oklahoma State cowboys beat Massachusetts to win the East Regional, Gans was deluged with media — television stations and their helicopters, a phone call from a radio station in Chicago, express carriers with overnight mail trying to find the home of Carl and Carolyn Reeves.

NCAA East Regional wins over Drexel and Alabama. "I never dreamed he would get this far."

The townsfolk, aware that Reeves had potential because of his size alone, also admit being a little surprised at how much he has developed. Frank Anglen held his hand to knee-level to show how long he's known Reeves, then smiled as he gradually raised his hand as high as he can.

Anglen pointed beyond his house to a slab of concrete in a field where Reeves once played — it was the only basketball court in town besides the high school gym.

For those who know him, big country is still Bryant. He still calls men "sir" and women "ma'am," and he loves to fish — a bulletin board in the general store called the "big board" shows Reeves with a dozen stripers.

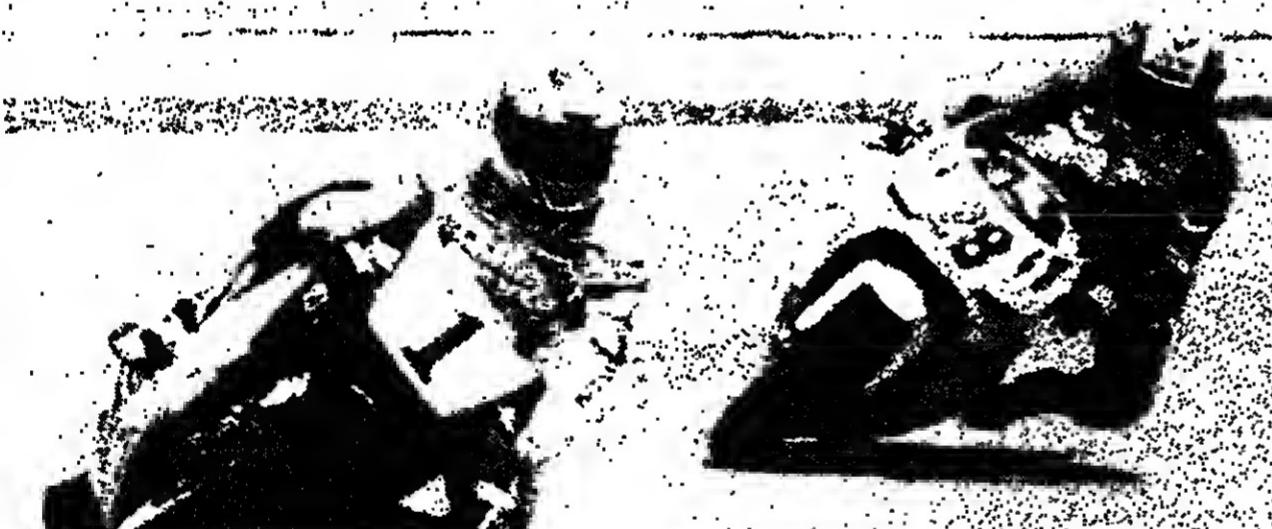
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## Motorcycling Grand Prix

## Doohan grabs pole position and heads for victory



World champion Michael Doohan (left) of Australia and France's Bruno Boahuil negotiate a corner at the Malaysian Grand Prix (AFP photo)

toward the pole position which may see an exciting speed chase at Sunday's race.

Among those to watch is first time 500cc rider Loris Capirossi. The Italian and former 125cc champion proved a foe to be reckoned with as he clocked the third fastest time.

Meanwhile, defending champion Massimiliano Biaggi of Italy kept pole position with an improved time of

1:25.939 over Friday's 1:27.033 in the 250cc category.

He looks set to take the title at Sunday's Malaysian world motorcycle Grand Prix while eastern Creek winner Ralf Waldmann of Germany kept his third position on the grid behind Japan's Tetsuya Harada.

Waldmann, who was fighting a slight health problem in

the morning, however, is optimistic about Sunday's race.

"What is giving me a lot of confidence is that except for Biaggi, nobody else seems to be consistently faster than me. The setup change we did from yesterday to today worked out very well and we're ready for tomorrow," he said.

In the 125cc group, Japan's Haruchika Aoki claimed pole

position with the fastest time of 1:31.144, edging world champion Kazuto Sakata, who will still be in the front row with the fourth-fastest.

Dirk Raudies of Germany took the second position while Akira Saito of Japan came in third-fastest.

Sunday's race will start at noon with the 250cc, followed by 500cc and 125cc.

Flying a huge flag of a boxing Kangaroo, One Australia was hacked into its berth and hoisted out of the water to begin what could be the most extensive overhaul in America's Cup history.

Designers have been busy doing computer simulations, and boat builders have been brought up from down under. By Friday night, carbon-fiber dust was flying. The work must be done by next Saturday.

"It will be a tough road, but that's what it's been since we lost our boat," Bertrand said. "If we win the America's Cup, it will be a greater victory than 1983."

"We've been fighting tooth

and nail to get here this whole round," America3 crew member Dawn Riley said. "There is a protest and there is a race tomorrow. Those are two variables. Maybe one will go in our favour."

Friday's race began under a cloudless sky with a west wind of 6 knots.

Stars and Stripes won the

start by two seconds, but Mighty Mary built a small lead during a tacking duel sailing upwind on the first leg. The previously all-woman crew made a mistake, though, when it went too far out on the port layline and left too big a gap for Stars and Stripes. Conner's boat rounded the first mark 12 seconds ahead.

Stars and Stripes led by 11 seconds on the Leeward Buoy, but that's where Mighty Mary made its move.

Mighty Mary gained from a wind shift on the right side of the course and led by almost two lengths the first time the 75-foot boats crossed on opposite tacks.

Mighty Mary kept the lead this time and rounded the windward mark 17 seconds ahead.

Two headail changes by Stars and Stripes and a big wind shift helped America gain 1:43 on the final straightaway of the six-leg, 18.5-mile course.

One Australia led the whole way to Nippon by 2:41. That eliminated Chris Dickson's NZL-39 and prevented an all-New Zealand Challenger final.

Team New Zealand forfeited its last three semifinal races so it could get a head start on testing its two boats. That meant NZL-39 had to sail the course alone Friday to earn a meaningless point.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Ligier retain Suzuki for Argentina

PARIS (AP) — The French Ligier Formula One team said on Friday they had retained Japan's Aguri Suzuki to drive in the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires on April 9. Suzuki made

turn of speed despite a steering problem during the second half of the race, the first of the 1995 season.

## Early goals enough for PSG

PARIS (AP) — Two goals in the first half an hour were enough to clinch Paris St. Germain's 2-1 home victory over Cannes in Friday's Brazilian Grand Prix where he was promoted to sixth place after the disqualification of Benetton's Michael Schumacher and David Coulthard in a Williams. Ligier said Suzuki

semi-final against AC Milan next week, could have won by a much bigger margin.

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦K10 ♦88 ♠Q2 ♣AJ832

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 Pass 2+ Pass

3+ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Your hand looks no-trump oriented, but with only one stopper in the unbid suits you can hardly try that strain. Since your two-overces promise a second bid, the only one available to you is three hearts.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦AQ98 ♠K6 ♣72 ♣K984

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 Pass 1 NT Pass

3+ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—If you are sure partner has four clubs, the hand is too slack-

oriented for a raise. To save a level of bidding and ease the possibility that partner might have jumped with a three-card suit on an unbalanced hand and is probing for the right spot, we would temporize with three diamonds to see what develops.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K10 ♦88 ♠A98632 ♣K982

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 Pass 1 NT Pass

3+ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Your duty is to tell partner the hand belongs to you. The way to do that is to redouble. A jump to three

clubs would be preemptive and bid spades with that puny suit could get partner off to a reply lead should the opponents declare.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K6 ♠A91098 ♠A52 ♣K63

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 Pass 1 NT Pass

3+ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Your duty is to tell partner the hand belongs to you. The way to do that is to redouble. A jump to three

clubs would be preemptive and bid spades with that puny suit could get partner off to a reply lead should the opponents declare.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K10 ♦88 ♠A98632 ♣K982

## Radja's dunk gives Celtics win in final 1.7 seconds

BOSTON (AP) — Dino Radja took a pass from Sberan Douglas and scored on a bank shot with 1.7 seconds remaining as the Boston Celtics beat the Miami Heat 100-99.

"I never dreamed I'd get this far," Radja said. "The townspersons had a bet after Brad Lohaus had given Miami a lead with a corner with 6.6 seconds remaining."

Douglas scored the deciding basket after Brad Lohaus had given Miami a lead with a corner with 6.6 seconds remaining.

Douglas scored 29 points and Radja 24 as Boston beat Miami for the fourth time in six games this season and was ahead of the Heat in the battle for the eighth and last playoff spot in the NBA's Eastern Conference.

Anglen Rice scored 26 points and Khalid Reeves 22 for Miami. Kevin Willis added 20 points and 20 rebounds.

**Knicks 101, Mavericks 95:**

At New York, Derek Harper and John Starks hit three-pointers apiece as New

York took control in the third quarter, edging the Mavericks' six-game winning streak.

The Knicks made seven of

their eight three-point attempts in the third quarter — while, ironically, making only four of 15

shots from inside the arc — in about half as many rebounds and less than half as many

turnovers as the Mavericks.

The day after their

Massachusetts loss,

76ers 86, Blazers 85: At Philadelphia, Clarence Weatherspoon hit a 17-foot jump shot with 3.3 seconds left to give Philadelphia the victory.

Dana Barros had 26 points and Weatherspoon 22 for Philadelphia, which won its

fourth straight. The win was

the 11th at home against

15 losses.

Jérôme Kersey had 16

points and Buck Williams 14

points and 10 rebounds for

the Trailblazers, whose road

record fell to 19-20.

Cavaliers 98, Bullets 88:

At Cleveland, Chris Mills

scored 24 points and Mark Price took control down the stretch as the Cavaliers overcame a 19-point first-half deficit.

Tyrone Hill had 20 points

and 11 rebounds for Cleveland, which beat Washington at home for the ninth straight time. The Bullets lost their sixth in a row overall.

Chris Webber scored 27

and Calbert Cheaney 22 for the Bullets.

Nuggets 107, Pacers 92:

At Indianapolis, Dikembe Mutombo scored 13 of his 22

points in the first quarter,

and Denver stayed ahead to stay

as the Nuggets snapped the

Pacers' five-game winning

streak.

Denver, battling Sacramento for the eighth spot in

the Western Conference

playoffs, posted its first

victory at Market Square Arena since March 13, 1988. Indiana had won six in a row since then.

The inside-outside offense

of Denver proved too much for Indiana's defense as the

luggers shot 60 per cent

from the field.

Magic 101, Jazz 98: At Salt Lake City, Dennis Scott's two free throws with

3.4 seconds left broke a tie,

giving Orlando a 12-

point home loss to Utah.

The Magic, who had lost

one of their previous 12 road

games, got their biggest one

of the season, handing the

Knicks their second loss at

the Delta Center in 19 games

and preserving the NBA's

best record. Orlando lost to

Utah 107-95 on March 14.

Shaquille O'Neal had 28

points and 11 rebounds to lead

Orlando and had a key

block in the final minutes.

Anfernee Hardaway added

21 points.

Spurs 118, Bucks 102:

At San Antonio, David

Robinson had 26 points and

10 rebounds to lead the

streaking Spurs to their 10th

straight victory.

San Antonio's victory, cou-

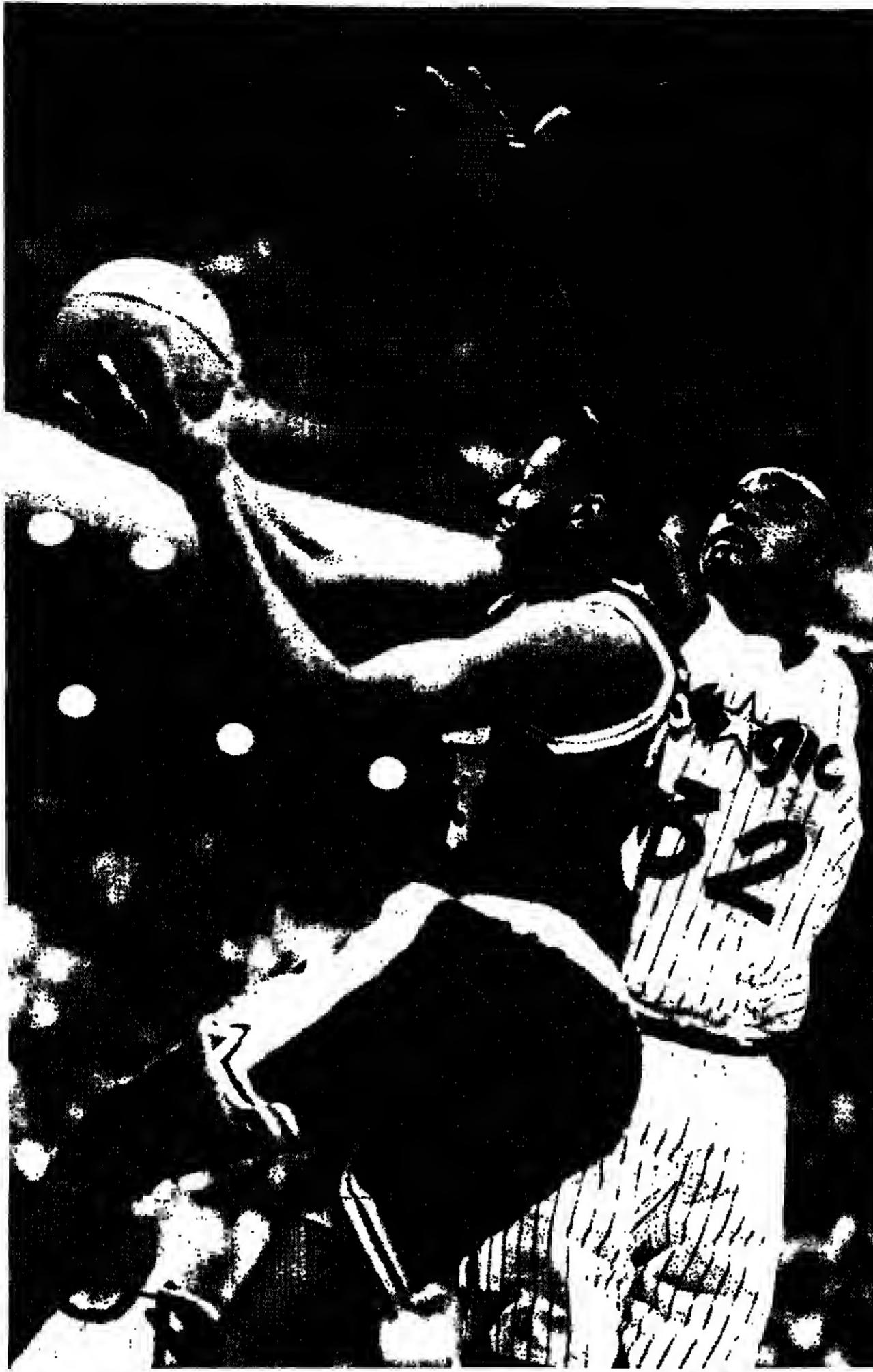
pled with Orlando's win

Friday night, Utah, pushed the

Spurs a half-game ahead of

the Jazz for the best record in

the Western Conference. San



Golden State Warriors' forward Donyell Marshall, comes under pressure from Orlando Magic's #32 Shaquille O'Neal (AP photo)

Suns just their second loss at

the Delta Center in 19 games

and preserving the NBA's

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Shaquille O'Neal had 28

points and 11 rebounds to lead

Orlando and had a key

block in the final minutes.

Anfernee Hardaway added

21 points.

Suns 196, Timberwolves

96: At Phoenix, Charles

Barkley scored 13 of his 27

points in the fourth quarter,

helping Phoenix come from

behind.

The Suns kept it close

against the team with the

NBA's third-worst record

with poor free-throw shooting — 27 for 41 for the game.

It was Phoenix's 24th consecutive win over Minnesota,

which has yet to defeat the

Hawks 121, Hawks 107:

At Inglewood, California,

Cedric Ceballos scored 25

points and Nick Van Exel

added 20 for the Lakers, who

won their fifth straight at

home.

Coming off their second-

worst shooting performance

of the season Wednesday

night at San Antonio (35),

the Lakers shot 71 per cent in

the first half on a night when

starting forward Elden

Gambrell was rendered useless

in the first two quarters

because of early foul trouble.

One night after season-

high 28-point victory at Gol-

den State, which included a

season-high 58 rebounds, the

Hawks managed only 42

boards against the Lakers

and lost to them for the 13th

time in 17 meetings. Steve

Smith led Atlanta with 22

points.

Lakers 121, Hawks 107:

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It was the 21st straight

win for the Lakers.

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It was the 21st straight

## Taiwanese leader arrives here today on private visit

By Rama Sabbagh

AMMAN (R) — Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui's upcoming visit that starts Sunday is "private" and had no political significance, officials said.

Mr. Lee is expected to arrive in Amman on Sunday from the United Arab Emirates on his first visit to the Middle East and his third overseas trip since becoming president in 1988.

The officials said he will hold an "unofficial" meeting with Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prince Abdullah, and Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Prince Hassan made two visits to Taiwan, the last in 1990, when Taipei granted Jordan \$20 million to support its economy.

"It is a private visit with no political dimensions," said a senior Jordanian official, who requested anonymity.

"Our position towards China remains unchanged... we only recognise the People's Republic of China in line with an agreement signed on April 17, 1977 and we consider Taiwan part of it," he told Reuters.

China's envoy to Jordan, Shi Gie Wang, lobbied hard to bloc Mr. Lee's visit, meeting with top government officials.

"All what he got was assurance that it is going to be a private low-key visit, that he will not get a chance to hold a press conference or even have the media cover his

arrival and departure," one diplomat said.

China, which has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of a civil war in 1949, staunchly opposes any official contacts between Taipei and Beijing's diplomatic allies.

The Information Ministry said it was banning Jordanian and foreign media correspondents from covering the trip.

Mr. Lee will be staying at the Al Hashimiya guest palace outside Amman.

Taiwan's trade mission in Amman closed down for three-days, apparently to avoid having to make any public comments.

Mr. Lee is accompanied by a powerful team of Taiwan businessmen.

At home, Mr. Lee had to stay away from Israel, which reportedly withdrew an earlier invitation for fear of damaging its relations with China.

Taiwan's foreign ministry refused to comment on the reports, but officials of the ruling Nationalist Party, which has planned aeronautic and financial ventures with Israel, have blamed premature media exposure for the withdrawal.

Taiwan sold Amman cars, machinery, spare parts and clothes worth \$60 million in 1994 and imported Jordanian potash and phosphates for \$20 million.

Mr. Lee, 72, made unofficial visits to the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand last year, though the three countries all recognise China.

Taiwan is the seat of the nationalist government that fled the communist takeover of the Chinese mainland in 1949.

Taiwan's trade with the UAE reached \$866.1 million.

**Egypt's Brotherhood denies training militants**

CAIRO (AFP) — The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood Saturday denied government charges that it was involved in training Islamic militants abroad to carry out attacks in Egypt.

"No members of the Brotherhood have committed any terrorist acts at home or abroad, nor have they tried to contact any terrorist groups," spokesman for the Brotherhood Maamoun Al Hodeibi told AFP.

"The government has been trying for a long time to stick a charge of terrorism on us. They want push us into doing something rash, but there is nothing which proves any charges," he added.

The Interior Ministry on Thursday arrested four members of the Brotherhood-controlled medical union for allegedly sending members of the outlawed Gamma Al Islamiyah militant group to receive military training overseas to commit terrorist acts in Egypt.

A fifth member of the union charged in the case, Ashraf Abdul Ghaffar, had gone into hiding abroad, the ministry said.

The training took place in Somalia, Burundi, Yemen, Bosnia and Croatia under the auspices of the union's "Humanitarian Relief Committee," it said.

The ministry accused the Brotherhood of spearheading efforts to turn the Janata into its "armed wing."

Police seized video tapes and documents at the medical union and the five had been trailed by security officials for three months, the ministry said.

The Brotherhood says it has renounced violence in its campaign to create an Islamic state in Egypt.

Mr. Hodeibi said the arrests were a reaction to the election of two candidates from the Islamic movement to the executive board of the journalists' union last week.

"The accusation of terrorist has become very easy to stick to anyone. But the journalists' elections were a clear sign that intellectuals have accepted the Islamic movement," he said.

The activities of the relief committee were "public and known" and Mr. Abdul Ghaffar "is not a fugitive," Mr. Hodeibi said. "He travels openly and often."

Members of Mr. Abdul Ghaffar's family told AFP Saturday they expected him to return to Egypt face the accusations, but refused to say where he was.

The relief committee is tasked with providing humanitarian aid to Muslims in trouble spots around the world.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New delay in W. Sahara referendum

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A referendum on whether Western Sahara should become independent or part of Morocco has been further delayed, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said in a report released Friday. Dr. Ghali had hoped to recommend to the Security Council that U.N. officials begin organising the referendum June 1. But his report to the council said new delays in voter registration mean the effort will be delayed until at least August, with the referendum to be held next January at the earliest.

Morocco and independence-seeking Polisario rebels waged sporadic combat after Spain withdrew from the territory in 1976 but have observed a U.N.-monitored cease-fire since 1991. The phosphate-rich former Spanish Sahara is the last disputed former colonial territory in Africa. Disputes over who can vote in the referendum have dragged on for years.

U.N. officials are drawing up a voter list for the referendum by interviewing 200,000 former nomads and residents of Morocco and Polisario refugee camps in neighbouring Algeria. A senior official in the peacekeeping force in Western Sahara, Frank Ruddy, told the U.S. Congress last January that Morocco was manipulating the voter registration results and otherwise hampering the U.N. operation.

The United Nations denied the charges.

### Kurdish 'parliament-in-exile' to open in Belgium

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A Kurdish "parliament-in-exile" will open in an town in Belgium on April 12, Belgian Senator Willy Kuijpers said Friday. The assembly will be composed of around 20 mayors and six senior officials forces to take refuge in Belgium to escape the violence going on in Turkey, the senator said, refusing to name the town chosen to host the self-styled parliament. Remzi Kartal, a member of the pro-Kurdish commission preparing to set up the assembly, said the name of the town was being kept secret for security reasons.

Turkish Parliamentary Speaker Huseyin Cindoruk on March 17 cancelled a visit to Belgium due for March 21 in protest at the proposal to set up a "parliament-in-exile" for Turkish Kurds who have been fighting Ankara for over 10 years to establish an autonomous homeland.

**Iran says kidnapped Chinese freed**

TEHRAN (R) — Iran said on Friday a Chinese engineer abducted nine months ago in the southern Iranian province of Hormuzgan has been freed. "One of the Chinese engineers who was helping us there, was kidnapped by bandits... (and) held captive several months. We took him back a few days ago," President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in remarks broadcast to Tehran Radio. Fuad Yeshin was kidnapped along with his driver and another Iranian in June while working at a mineral factory, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported at the time. Mr. Rafsanjani did not give details about the fate of the kidnapped Iranians. The remote region between Bandar Abbas and Kahriz where the three were kidnapped has a reputation as a lawless region frequented by armed smugglers and drug traffickers. Iran said in November helicopter-borne Revolutionary Guard units killed about 25 bandits in the region.

### S. Africa, Tunisia to promote relations

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — South Africa and Tunisia will establish a joint committee to promote bilateral relations during a state visit next week by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, a presidential spokesman said. Parks Mankahlana, spokesman for President Nelson Mandela, said in a statement that Mr. Ben Ali, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), will arrive Tuesday for a three-day visit at the invitation of Mr. Mandela. The two leaders are to discuss various bilateral issues, including OAU matters, Mr. Mankahlana said. The Tunisian leader will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia and Trade Minister Slaedine M'harek, he added.

The activities of the relief committee were "public and known" and Mr. Abdul Ghaffar "is not a fugitive," Mr. Hodeibi said. "He travels openly and often."

Members of Mr. Abdul Ghaffar's family told AFP Saturday they expected him to return to Egypt face the accusations, but refused to say where he was.

The relief committee is tasked with providing humanitarian aid to Muslims in trouble spots around the world.

**DR. NABIL ASFOUR DENTIST PROSTHODONTIST**

Would like to announce that he is moving to his new clinic at Bader Medical Centre, Fifth Circle - near the Arab Heart Centre, behind the Mill Bakery, and will receive his patients as usual from Saturday 1st April 1995.

Tel. (863250)



A helicopter takes off from a Turkish position in the mountainous area of northern Iraq as the Turkish offensive against Kurdish separatists continues (AFP photo)

## More unrest reported in Bahrain

MANAMA (AP) — Security authorities arrested a prominent Muslim preacher in a dawn raid on his home Saturday, sparking riots in the Shiite Muslim stronghold southwest of the capital.

Sheikh Abdul Ameen Al Jamri, 55, a former member of the Parliament dissolved in 1975, has been preaching sermons in the local mosque criticising the government and demanding the restoration of the legislature.

Residents of villages around the Beni Jamra suburb where Sheikh Jamra lives said fierce clashes between Shiite protesters and security forces erupted after the cleric was arrested.

They said police fired tear-gas and gunshots were heard. One person was reported killed, with several others wounded or arrested.

There was no immediate official word on the violence or the reported casualties.

Bahrain is an important regional financial centre and the U.S. Central Command, which maintains military forces in the Gulf, has its regional headquarters there.

Bahrain has been swept by unrest since December, when widespread rioting, mainly

disgruntled young Shiites, flared for two weeks. The trouble has erupted sporadically ever since.

The protesters are demanding the return of parliament and more jobs. An estimated 30,000 of the 500,000-strong population are unemployed, a problem that is starting to hit other Gulf states.

The unemployment in Bahrain has hit the low-income Shiites, who comprise more than half the indigenous population, particularly hard.

Security authorities have arrested several prominent Shiite preachers and deported several since the trouble erupted more than three months ago.

Two of Sheikh Jamri's sons live in exile in London. A third son and Sheikh Jamri's son-in-law are serving long prison sentences for political agitation during the 1980s, according to local residents.

By mid-morning Saturday, the situation in Beni Jamra, about 15 kilometres from downtown Manama, appeared to be under control.

Police officers in jeeps were deployed on all roads

leading into the area.

A police helicopter hovered overhead. Witnesses claimed it had landed earlier on the campus of Bahrain University's engineering college about 15 kilometres away during a demonstration there.

There was no official confirmation of any trouble at the college. But the unrest has recently spread to Bahrain's schools and educational institutions.

A teenager was killed by a police rubber bullet last week in a school clash.

A policeman, a Pakistani, was burned to death last week when his jeep was attacked with firebombs. Another officer was wounded.

At least five policemen have been killed in the violence since December, according to official count.

The authorities have started putting people arrested over the last few weeks on trial for sabotage.

Ten men, described mainly as carpenters, officeboys and drivers, are said to have confessed to murdering a senior police officer and will go to trial soon.

(Continued on page 7)

**Iraqi lawmaker expects solution soon on Americans**

BAGHDAD (R) — A high-ranking member of Iraq's parliament said on Saturday he expected a breakthrough shortly regarding two Americans whose jailing after crossing the border illegally has prompted protests from Washington.

"We believe that the coming few days will solve this problem," Haseeb Aref, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, told Reuters when asked about the fate of William Barloon and David Daliberti.

He added that he expected the problem to be resolved by returning to international treaties.

"We find that the best solution for it lies in the agreements between us, the United Nations, Vienna and Geneva pacts."

Mr. Aref said he hoped their imprisonment would

not further sour Iraq's relations with the outside world, particularly the United States, which is spearheading efforts to maintain sanctions imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990.

The sanctions have blocked Iraq's vital oil exports and shattered its economy.

"We do not have a problem with any country in the world," Mr. Aref said.

U.S. officials have said they were civilian aircraft maintenance workers and have demanded their releases.

Baghdad insists the case has no bearing on the U.N. sanctions or the tough U.S. stand. It also says their plight has attracted undue publicity at a time when several other Westerners have been jailed in Iraq for similar offences.

The United States has

offered concessions to Iraq to obtain the men's release. It has also said it would resort to all options available to get them released.

Iraq on Wednesday allowed a Western reporter into the Baghdad prison to see the detainees. Polish diplomats, running the U.S. interests section in Iraq, have visited the Kurdish problem.

The two are expected to appeal soon. If the court upholds the sentence, the Americans will have to ask for clemency which under Iraq's constitution can be granted only by the president, Saddam Hussein.

Sources at the Polish embassy said they were arranging for another visit on Monday to take clothing, food and other items.

## New militant chief calls on Zeroual to solve insurgency

ALGIERS (AP) — The new head of a leading Muslim fundamentalist rebel movement has called on the government to rapidly reach "a legal and decisive solution" to a bloody three-year-old insurgency.

Government sources on Friday dismissed the message by Mezrag Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), as another attempt by militants to look like moderates. But it was the most public gesture yet by militants seeking talks with the government.

Word of the statement, published in a newspaper this week, came as the army was pursuing an offensive against the militants in western Algeria, where newspapers reported about 800 guerrillas were killed.

In an open message to President Liamine Zeroual, leader of the Islamic Front in Jordan, told Sudanese worshippers to "oppose any normalisation with the (Israeli) enemy."

He said Israel was "the greatest danger."

Mr. Madani, 35, was confirmed early this month as "interim" head of the Islamic Salvation Army, the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was headed to win January 1992 parliamentary elections cancelled by the government.

In his statement, Mr. Madani condemned attacks on civilians and blamed them both on the military and "ignoramus and infiltrators" among the militants.

He pledged his fighters would use force to oppose those attacks "whatever the perpetrators."

The Islamic Salvation Army, strongest in eastern

Algeria, has been unable to influence the more extreme Armed Islamic Group, rebels concentrated in the Algiers area and who have claimed responsibility for attacks on government targets as well as civilians.

But Mr. Madani, in calling on all to "surpass our immediate and temporary interests," also said: "The solution is the Koran."

The statement was published in this week's issue of the newspaper Le Nation, and sources close to the Muslim fundamentalist movement, speaking on anonymity, said the statement was likely written in February.

Analysts in the government, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said they saw nothing new in the statement and called it another manoeuvre by the FIS to appear moderate.

The government has refused to talk with the militants until they lay down their arms.

More than 30,000 people have died since the militants, frustrated by the cancellation of elections, launched their armed drive to topple the government and establish an Islamic state.

In his statement, Mr. Madani condemned attacks on civilians and blamed them both on the military and denounced the abuses.

"We have welcomed past openings of this type such as that which arose from the Rome platform of Algerian opposition parties meeting under the auspices of the Sant' Egido Society," the spokeswoman recalled.

The Islamic Salvation Army, strongest in eastern

PLATTING, Germany (AFP) — The names of Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, architects of World War II, were listed by error among the citizens of honour of the German town of Plattling, a local spokesman admitted Friday. Recorded as "chancellor of the Reich" and "leader of the Reich SS," Hitler and Himmler figures among the 21 "citizens of honour" featured in the Bavarian town's official yearbook. Embarrassed officials said the names would be blacked out by pen in the 7,000 copies of the first edition, and the sale of the yearbook suspended.